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ARAB LEAGUE SESSION BEGINS IN CAIRO 27 MARCH

Kamal on PLO Participation

NC272212Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 March--Sa'id Kamal, deputy head of the PLO Political Department and head of the PLO delegation to the Arab League Council meetings, has denied news agency reports that the PLO has refrained from attending the Arab League meetings.

At the closed meeting of the Political Committee this evening, Sa'id Kamal said that he has not received any instructions in this respect. He pointed out that if he is instructed not to attend these meetings, he will abide by such instructions.

PLO Delegation Attends

NC271948Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 March--the PLO is participating in the meetings of the 69th session of the Arab League which began in Cairo this evening with a delegation headed by deputy head of the PLO Political Department Sa'id Kamal.

It is known that the delegations of only five Arab states are not attending the meeting. These are the delegations from Algeria, Syria, Iraq, Libya and the PDRY which are the "rejectionist" states that have notified the Arab League that they are unable to attend.

Permanent Delegates Meet

NC271222Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 27 March--This morning Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad chaired a meeting of the permanent delegates of the Arab League member states. Topics on the agenda of the new Arab League Council session were reviewed. The delegates from Iraq, Syria, Algeria, Libya and PDRY did not attend. These countries will not be attending the Arab League Council meeting.

It was agreed at the meeting that the opening session of the Arab League Council be held at 1800 [1600 GMT]. This will provide time for the rest of the foreign ministers to arrive and will make it possible for further contacts between the foreign ministers and delegation members.

The agenda has been approved and distributed to the council committees.

Opening Session Reported

NC271930Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1736 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 27 March--The meetings of the 69th ordinary session of the Arab League Council began at 1845 today, at the foreign ministers level, at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo.

Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad made a speech opening the meeting in which he announced that the Arab League Council begins its new session under the most serious circumstances which the Arab nation has ever experienced.

This is so because Israel is continuing its defiance of and aggression against the Arab nation and because the inter-Arab differences endanger all the achievements and aspirations of the joint Arab action carried out to protect our independence and develop our resources.

The secretary general added that the Zionist challenge has surpassed all imagination because the Israeli prime minister has declared his insistence on continuing to occupy all of Palestine and his rejection of the establishment of a Palestinian state. He also refuses to recognize the Palestinian people's right to determine their own fate. Even worse, the Israeli prime minister has presented an imperialist plan which he has called self-ruled. By presenting this plan, the Israeli prime minister aims at continuing the occupation of Palestinian territory and exploiting the Palestinian people in boosting the Israeli economy. He also continues his defiance by rejecting withdrawal to the international borders of Syria and Egypt.

Egyptian Minister's Address

NC272055Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1854 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 27 March--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has affirmed that Egypt will always be the first to respond to any sincere call for unifying efforts and closing ranks so that all the Arabs can stand in one rank to face the dangers surrounding them.

In a speech at the meetings of the Arab League Council, which began in Cairo this evening, the foreign minister said that Egypt will not reject any hand extended in good will. Egypt will also not hesitate to extend its hand in goodwill to all so long as their objective is to face up to their responsibilities and so long as the purpose is to stay above outbiddings and prevarications.

The following is the text of the speech which Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil made at the Arab League Council meetings this evening:

We are delighted to welcome you in Cairo as cherished brothers who are meeting, once again under the aegis of your auspicious Arab League, for the purpose of streamlining the efforts exerted by our great Arab nation to fulfill its noble objectives from which our nation does not deviate, despite the rancorous ones who are lying in wait for our nation.

Our meeting is now being held in extremely serious circumstances in which we are facing great challenges. But we are able to face up to these challenges and to transform them into a point of departure for the future--and we have struggled and we are still struggling to build this future on the solid foundations of righteousness, justice and prosperity.

Dear brothers, since the meeting you held in Tunis less than 6 months ago, our area has witnessed basic and radical changes and historic moves made by Egypt to attain the strategic goals on which our kings and presidents had unanimously agreed during their summit conferences, particularly in Rabat and Algiers. These goals are the total liberation of the Arab soil, which was treacherously and aggressively occupied in 1967, and the Palestinian people's recovery of their legitimate national right to determine their own fate and set up their homeland through their free will on their land, Palestine.

Egypt has exerted sincere efforts and it will continue to do so and to make its contribution. Egypt has given a great deal to its nation and it will continue to give in this way. Egypt has also assumed its historic responsibility and it will not abandon it.

Egypt's efforts have brought their weight to bear upon the enemy, whose insolence and supercilliousness were smashed during the great October war. Our initiative is continuing to crush the enemy's stubbornness, because we have put the enemy in a predicament which has completely revealed and exposed to the world his stands and true objectives.

Some brothers have chosen to absent themselves from our meeting on the grounds of rejection and steadfastness. They have chosen to struggle by making random accusations without logic or right. From this place we tell them that honorable rejection means refusing to be swept away by outbiddings and prevarications; that real steadfastness means standing fast against grudges and whims; and that the real struggle is not a negative attitude, isolation or withdrawal. Real struggle means continuing to move and pursuing all the courses available with honor, strength and dignity to achieve the goals specified through the consensus of our Arab nation.

Brothers, Israel has launched a brutal aggression against the land of fraternal Lebanon to achieve its goals in southern Lebanon--and we all know these goals--and to crush the will of the heroic Palestinian people, who have resisted for decades the treacherous blows and the attempts to make them homeless and to liquidate them. Even worse, things have gone as far as trying to carry out a genocide against this people.

This state of affairs makes it imperative for us to collaborate in order to defeat the objectives of this new aggression so as to protect Palestinian presence, which is a trust shared by all of us.

In this respect, I will not forget to voice, on behalf of Egypt's president, people and government, our expression of appreciation and pride which we take in the struggle waged by the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples against the forces of aggression, coercion and occupation.

Saudi Minister's Speech

LD272330Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] This evening in Cairo, at the Arab League headquarters, the 69th session of the Arab League Council began at foreign ministers level. His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister and chairman of the former session of the council opened this session with a speech in which he called on the Arabs to adopt a sincere, earnest and wise stand to reexamine the developments that took place in the Arab area and led to the escalation of political differences between members of the Arab family.

His Highness affirmed that sooner or later the Arabs have only one way to follow, namely, to unite and be in solidarity with one another and unify their potentials as happened before for the sake of realizing the aims and legitimate interests of the Arabs which were supported by international society. His highness added that this road is inevitable in order to confront continuing Zionist aggression against the Arab people which took place in order to realize two equally dangerous objectives. The first objective is establishment of settlements and the second is racial discrimination.

Here is the text of the speech by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister:

Your excellencies and brothers: Today ends the 68th session of the Arab League Council. The honor of its chairmanship was given to my country. Together we begin a new session of this council through joint Arab action which we hope will be positive and constructive. Events in the Arab world have left their mark on the Middle East question. If now developments should proceed in a direction we do not desire--that is, in a direction which escalates the political differences between members of the Arab family--then all of us must adopt a sincere, earnest and wise reexamination of the various reasons and ways of avoiding this danger. We must overcome this danger and in so doing, all efforts should be concentrated on arriving at effective cooperation and strengthening the ties of cooperation among the brothers.

I do not need to say that difference of opinion and approach is something that has been experienced by other nations before us. We are not unique in this and consequently, nothing of this kind should lead us astray or divert us from our aims and rights.

His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal added: Today we still confront the continuing Zionist aggression against the Arab people. This aggression came to realize two equally dangerous objectives that threaten the destiny of the Arab nation and its existence.

The first is the establishment of settlements and the other is racial discrimination. Therefore, all the Arabs should know full well that they sooner or later have no other way open to them and that is that we adopt the same methods and means we followed before, namely, that our word should be united, and our will be in solidarity and our potentials should gather together for the sake of realizing our aims and legitimate interests which were supported by the international society. I wish to affirm here that the capabilities and potentials of the Arab nation have the power of influencing the march of events if they were well employed and all efforts were brought together to form one voice and one will.

In conclusion, I would beg you to permit me to thank the secretary general of the Arab League and his aides for the sincere efforts they had made in the previous session.

His highness then invited the leader of the Sudanese delegation to assume the chairmanship of the new session of the Arab League Council wishing him success and good fortune.

Political Committee Resumes Meetings

NC281203Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 28 March--The Arab League Council Political Committee resumed its meetings this morning under the chairmanship of Ar-Rashid at-Tahir, Sudanese vice president and foreign minister and head of the Sudanese delegation to the current session of the Arab League Council. The meeting was attended by Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad and the Arab foreign ministers and heads of the delegations participating in this session. The political committee is continuing its general discussion on the present Arab situation in an attempt to arrive at a formula for dealing with and settling Arab differences and thus close Arab ranks and meet the common challenges at this critical stage of Arab struggle.

Last night the Arab foreign ministers held a series of related meetings and peripheral consultations for the same purpose. Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil met with Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, and Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak.

Half an hour after today's meeting of the Arab League Political Committee began, the members of the delegations left the meeting and the foreign ministers and other heads of delegations held a special session in connection with the efforts to revive Arab solidarity and consider a suitable formula for this purpose.

KHADDAM'S SPEECH AT STEADFASTNESS CONFERENCE

LD250446Y Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 20 Mar 78 pp 1, 11 LD

["Text" of Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's speech at the meeting of foreign and defense ministers of steadfastness and confrontation states in Damascus on 19 March]

[Text] Brother members of the conference: I am pleased to welcome you to Damascus, the Umayyad capital, which has been and will forever remain the base of Arab steadfastness, which expresses in its present and future, as it expressed in the past, the aspirations and hopes that fill the minds and hearts of the Arabs to build a united, liberated and progressive Arab homeland.

The convening of the first conference of the ministers of foreign affairs and defense of the national front for steadfastness and liberation in Damascus in these difficult and critical conditions when a dear part of Lebanese territory is becoming occupied and our brothers and comrades in the long struggle march, the Palestinian Arab people, are being subjected to aggression and extermination, the holding of this conference in the Umayyad capital in these circumstances symbolizes the significance of this conference, which Damascus is happy to host and to welcome holding it on its soil.

Brother members of the conference, our conference is being held during critical and grave conditions that might usher in a stage in which our nation could overcome all hesitation and begin a new decisive stage in the process of the long and bitter struggle it is waging for the sake of existence and defending our national existence, which is threatened by the invading Zionist presence on the Arab soil in Palestine, Sinai, the Golan and southern Lebanon.

Perhaps the most dangerous thing that we are facing in the present circumstances is that grand plan whose dimensions and objectives we defined at the Tripoli and Algiers conferences. The policies of the Egyptian regime is one of its links, and the Israeli aggression on southern Lebanon is the second and subsequent link.

Thus, we are facing the conspiracy link after link, a conspiracy that aims at imposing a defeatist solution on the Arab nation, humiliating to its dignity and at the expense of its territory and people, a conspiracy from which the Arab nation will emerge divided and exhausted and which would achieve for Zionism and imperialism strategic control over our Arab homeland and other parts of the world.

It is within this framework we see the significance of the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and the new occupation of Arab land as well as the new objectives that this aggression aims to achieve at the expense of the Palestinian problem and of the Lebanese national unity, integrity of its soil and unity of its people.

If one of the most important elements of the Zionist plan is to obliterate the Palestinian problem, the creation of a Lebanese problem is the more important element in implementing this plan.

The occupation of land, the dispersing of hundreds of thousands of people and the creation of a national division is bound to create a major problem that would attract Arab and international attention at the expense of the main problem, the Palestinian problem.

Brothers, Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon was not a surprise because the course of the plan has been clear since the Egyptian president's visit to Jerusalem and since the dialog began between President as-Sadat and the Israeli enemy leaders.

If the Sinai Agreement resulted in a war between brothers in Lebanon in which the Arabs in general and the Lebanese and Palestinians in particular have paid a high price--tens of thousands of dead and wounded and a deep division among the brothers--then a reconciliation between the Israeli enemy and the Egyptian president, under which the Palestinian problem will be dropped, will create a situation in which the Arabs will pay an even higher price than they have paid for the Sinai Agreement.

This price not only includes Palestinian and Lebanese blood spilled in the Israeli attack on the south but also the liquidation of an integral Lebanon and the Palestinian problem as well as outflanking Syria in its capacity as the main base of steadfastness in the face of the Israeli enemy because of its geographical, political, and national position in our historical struggle with the Zionist enemy.

On the basis of these considerations and with clear vision of the course of events, we believe that there are certain national responsibilities that must be shouldered in order to confront what the enemy is planning and what he is seeking to implement. These responsibilities include:

1. To seek to end the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and support the Lebanese state in shouldering its domestic responsibilities, which naturally include the important element of shouldering national responsibilities.

2. To protect the Palestinian revolution against all attempts aimed at liquidating it, consolidate Palestinian national unity, strengthen the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and support the PLO in order to fulfill its national responsibilities in all the fields.

3. To seek to settle all Lebanese-Palestinian differences, restore trust among brothers and remove all the existing causes of suspicions. This undoubtedly requires an understanding of the special Lebanese and Palestinian conditions.

4. To end the state of hesitation in confrontation with the enemy. This requires placing the Palestinian problem and the cause of total liberation among the first regional and national priorities and providing the means to achieve this end.

5. To go beyond the stage of submitting ideas and slogans in the matter of building the intrinsic power. This requires devoting a major effort to achieving a strategic balance between the Syrian front and the Israeli enemy.

Brothers, the conflict between us and the Israeli enemy is a prolonged one and, therefore, must be multifaceted. This calls upon us all to give a practical translation to the national dimension of the conflict by involving all the resources of the Arab nation so that each Arab country will shoulder its share in the conflict as much as it believes in the cause and as much as it can. If a country believes in its responsibility then it can do a great deal.

In this regard I am glad to assert that Syria will not hesitate to shoulder its national responsibility in decisionmaking and in practice. It calls on the Arab nation to emerge from the state of hesitation in the face of the enemy and to realize the historical depth of this conflict and what the Israeli enemy aims to achieve.

There is no doubt that such a realization of the nature of the struggle first and foremost calls for sidestepping all inter-Arab issues and giving top priority to the conflict. Consequently it calls for all matters related to life, including economic and social development, to be linked to the issue of confrontation with the enemy.

On the basis of this clear understanding, Syria calls on all the Arabs to shoulder their responsibilities on its territory and through it and to take up their positions on the Syrian map as long as these positions serve our nation and contribute to its struggle march.

In this regard we must call on all those who realize the dimensions of the current struggle between us and the Israeli enemy to shoulder their responsibilities in proportion to their realization of the dimensions of this conflict.

This is because history will have no mercy on these who refrain when action must be taken and hesitate when a decision must be made.

Brothers, the millions of our sons of our Arab nation throughout the Arab homeland, particularly in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories, look upon our conferences with hope and anticipation that this conference will contribute effectively and positively to our conflict with the enemy. We must work so that we will achieve thier hopes. Thank you.

PALESTINIAN SPOKESMAN SAYS FIGHTING WILL CONTINUE

JN281256Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The Palestinian resistance has reaffirmed that the fedayeen will continue the fighting in southern Lebanon. A spokesman for the resistance said that the fighting in southern Lebanon will not stop until all the Zionist forces have withdrawn from the area.

A responsible Palestinian source has described the threats of enemy war minister Ezer Weizman as an admission of the failure of the Zionist forces to achieve their objectives in southern Lebanon. Weizman had threatened that his forces would renew their aggression against southern Lebanon if the fedayeen did not stop their shelling of Zionist military settlements.

A spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said that the enemy's admission of its failure to achieve its objective of controlling southern Lebanon has come 12 days after the beginning of the aggression. The spokesman added that this is a military and a political failure. The Zionist enemy forces have sustained and are still sustaining heavy losses. The spokesman affirmed that the resistance will not stop the fighting against the occupation forces. No one in the world will accept the cessation of the fighting against the occupier.

The spokesman added: If the UN forces have come to Lebanon to expel the occupation forces outside Lebanon, we will not have had any reason to obstruct their mission. But if these forces have come to protect the Zionist entity, then it will not achieve the mission for which they have come.

BAHRAIN

[illegible] U.S. OIL COMPANY

JN252008Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1910 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpt] Manama, 25 March--The Bahrain Government intends to take full control of the oil production and local marketing facilities undertaken by the U.S. company BAPCO [presumably Bahrain Petroleum Company] since 1934. This was announced by Yusuf Ahmad ash-Shirawi, Bahrain minister of development and industry, in a statement published here today by the "GULF MIRROR" newspaper.

The minister added that the Bahrain Cabinet has ratified the recommendations submitted by the Ministry of Development in this regard. He further said that the Bahraini Government is in the process of concluding an agreement with the U.S. company BAPCO, but this may take some time. Ash-Shirawi explained that the long negotiations between the two sides is a result of the existence of more than 50 texts of agreements governing the changing relations between the Bahrain Government and BAPCO throughout the past 44 years.

KUWAIT

AMIR, PDRY PREMIER HOLD OFFICIAL TALKS

JN281010Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0956 GMT 28 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 28 March--His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, this morning received 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, prime minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], and the delegation presently accompanying him on a visit to Kuwait.

During the meeting the discussion revolved around bilateral relations and the means to develop these relations in various spheres. Issues of mutual interst were also discussed. Following the meeting, official talks were held between the Kuwaiti side under His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, Kuwaiti crown prince and prime minister, and the PDRY side under 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

Well-informed sources have stated that discussions between the two sides centered on strengthening relations between the two countries in various spheres, particularly in economy. They also discussed the possibility of Kuwait participating in certain projects to be implemented in South Yemen. The sources added that the discussions also dealt with the prevailing Arab situation and issues dealing with the gulf region and the Horn of Africa.

HEALTH MINISTER LEAVES BAGHDAD AFTER TALKS

JN241506Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 24 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 March--Dr 'Abd ar-Rahman 'Abdallah, Kuwaiti public health minister, left Baghdad today for Kuwait after presiding over the emergency meeting of the Arab Health Ministers Executive Bureau which ended here today. Before his departure, Dr 'Abdallah stated that the crucial circumstances the Arab nation is passing through require more than ever a joining of all efforts and calls for swift action, particularly in the health sphere, to provide effective health assistance to the victims of the Zionist-imperialist aggression in southern Lebanon.

SAUDI ARABIA

FOREIGN MINISTER URGES ARAB SUMMIT MEETING

LD261230Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

[Text] His Royal Highness Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, confirmed that the kingdom continued to see the need for the convening of an Arab summit conference to discuss the treacherous Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon and means capable for repulsing the repeated Zionist aggressions against the Arab nation.

His Royal Highness said in an interview published today by AN-NADWAH that the Zionist danger to southern Lebanon was not over, and we do not believe at all that it will end in the near future. The foreign minister called on Arab states to rise above their differences and respond to the continued reconciliation efforts in light of the sensitivity of the current state of its joint struggle against Zionism.

His Royal Highness Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal pointed out that the kingdom's accordance of the holding of an Arab summit conference came as a result of its understanding of the grave danger resulting from the continuation of the Israeli aggression against the steadfast southern Lebanon in the absence of Arab solidarity and in the shadow of the current Arab differences. His highness said that the kingdom believed that the continued Zionist threats and aggressions were not aimed at a certain country but were aimed at the whole Arab existence.

On the place and time of the holding of an Arab summit, his highness said that the kingdom did not see any importance in holding of the conference in any particular Arab capital, but it confirmed the need for the agreement to hold it to be unanimous, so that its resolutions achieve the required effectiveness and so that the cause of consolidating Arab solidarity would not be affected by sudden differences.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ON F-15'S, MIDDLE EAST

LD251909Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, has affirmed that the kingdom believes in peace based on justice and equity and the respect of the full rights of the Palestinian people. In its quest for peace, he said, it seeks the stability and prosperity of the people of the area's states. He added that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, inasmuch as it wants to become a strong power, harbors no aggressive intentions.

The crown prince was speaking to an American businessmen delegation. His highness the crown prince referred to the Saudi-U.S. relations and said: They are firm, ancient and strong relations. His highness spoke about the achievements of the kingdom in various fields. He said that the state is working to achieve prosperity for all the citizens, particularly those with small incomes, by way of granting them loans and aid and by making free education available to them up to university level. Moreover, he added, the state respects the freedom of the individual, the freedom of trade and personal freedoms within the limits of the law.

At the outset of the meeting, the American delegation presented to his highness the exalted crown prince a symbolic gift--a picture of his majesty, the late King Faysal, which he gratefully received.

At the end of the interview, his royal highness the crown prince replied to the following questions posed by members of the American delegation:

Question: Your Highness, what effect will it have on your strength if you fail to receive American F-15's?

Answer: There is no use talking now about what we would do in the future. If such a thing happened, we would submit the matter to the American people.

Question: Does your highness have any proposals to contribute to the peace efforts in the Middle East?

Answer: In my opinion the matters are clear and need no further clarification. There are UN resolutions and if all abide by them, then the problem will be solved.

Question: Your Highness, what will Jerusalem's position be within the framework of a peaceful solution?

Answer: We want Jerusalem to return to what it was before the 1967 aggression.

Question: UN Resolution 242 has mentioned nothing about a comprehensive solution, for it did not mention Palestine and the Palestinians. How then can this gap be filled?

Answer: We feel that there will be no stability without the establishment of a state for the Palestinians. Through such a state this gap will be closed. This is not new. In 1938 and 1948 and before that, there was an understanding on the establishment of a state of both Arabs and Jews. Thus the establishment of a state in Palestine is not a new topic.

Question: Your Highness, are the chances of peace at present better now than before As-Sadat's visit?

Answer: As-Sadat's visit is the maximum he has gone so far. If these efforts fail, nobody can predict what will happen.

Question: If you were the prime minister of Israel, what would you insist on for the establishment of peace in the Middle East?

Answer: I would be realistic and recognize that there are a people of Palestinians who have their rights and I should deal with them as I deal with the other friends.

Question: What role do you propose the United States should play in this regard?

Answer: We do not want the United States to side with the Arabs or with Israel against the Arabs. We want it to be on the side of justice. We know that this matter is very sensitive in view of the friendship between the United States and Israel. Moreover, the United States has friends and interests in the gulf states. Thus, its stance should be characterized by justice.

Question: Israel is a state with not over 3.5 million people. It is always making use of the excuse that it needs security. How can all this be guaranteed within the framework of a peaceful solution. What are Your Highness' suggestions for its security?

Answer: There would be no problem if Israel were convinced of and had a positive attitude toward its withdrawal from the Arab territories it occupied in 1967. In this event there would be no problem between it and its neighbors or about anything that Israel might be afraid of for itself. We wonder if Israel is prepared to withdraw even if there were guarantees.

Question: What is Your Highness's stand on using the dollar for transactions because of the pressures by OPEC member states as far as the dollar is concerned?

Answer: Some states might have a position on the dollar. However, as far as we are concerned, the kingdom has declared more than once that it will not change its stand on using the dollar for transactions because this would be damaging to the country's interest. We are confident that the dollar will regain its strength.

Question: If demands for oil should increase in the eighties, what would your stand be?

Answer: The kingdom's stand toward its friends is firm and it will not change its policy in this regard.

COMMENTARY VIEWS ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL SESSION

LD271303Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Amid crucial international and Arab conditions, the meeting of the 69th session of the Arab League council opens in Cairo today at the foreign ministers' level. The session is taking place in an atmosphere of tension on the international arena and rift and division within the ranks of the Arab nation, thereby threatening the unity of its action, which is the most effective weapon in the face of the challenges posed by the Zionist aggression in Arab territory.

The first matter facing the current Arab League session is the present conditions of the Arab nation. These conditions are under no circumstances in the long- or short-term interest of the Arab nation, the Arab cause or Arab strength. By these conditions, we mean the clouds that have swept across the sky of Arab relations, disturbing relations among brothers and harming the wall of Arab solidarity which the Arab states, headed by the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, have worked to build and strengthen in the face of the Zionist challenge.

This is the reason for calling an Arab summit conference directed in the first place at remedying the rift and restoring Arab solidarity to its past strength and effectiveness. The kingdom has supported this call, seeing in it a means of restoring matters among the Arab states to their normal course.

The Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon has come to prove beyond all doubt that the enemy will not let any opportunity pass without using it, without realizing some part of his expansionist ambitions at the expense of the Arab nation.

The second matter is that the 69th session of the Arab League is being held only a few days since the return of Menahem Begin, the enemy prime minister, from his visit to the United States, with all the resultant differences between the United States and Israel.

Menahem Begin has openly declared that he does not intend to withdraw from the Arab territory and that he is determined to continue with his expansionist, aggressive policy even if this policy angers the entire world and is not approved by the United States.

This inevitably means that the Arab nation must end its internal differences and deal with its problems and issues in a unified, strong manner. This can only be achieved through the restoration of vitality and strength to Arab solidarity and through the restoration to the one Arab movement of its dynamic character and its ability to challenge and confront.

Any weakness in the Arab position only adds more strength to the position of its enemies. Hence, the only beneficiary of the continuation of inter-Arab differences is the Zionist enemy, which watches events with a sinister, experienced eye, looking for the appearance of gaps through which to deal blows to the Arab nation.

These days, all Arabs look with hope and aspiration to the efforts being exerted for the ending of inter-Arab conflicts and the strengthening of Arab solidarity and its restoration to its normal course for the sake of a unified Arab action, which causes extreme worry to the enemy.

KING KHALID HOLDS TALKS WITH UAE PRESIDENT

LD241214Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Talks between His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, began at 1100 this morning.

On the Saudi side the talks were attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation; Dr Rashad Far'awn, the king's private adviser; and the Saudi ambassador to the UAE.

On the UAE side the talks were attended by Shaykh Hamad ibn Muhammad ash-Sharqi, member of the Supreme Council of the Federation and ruler of Fujairah; Shaykh Mubarak ibn Muhammad, minister of the interior; the minister of foreign affairs; and the minister of petroleum and natural resources.

The SAUDI NEWS AGENCY has learned that his majesty the king and Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan reviewed all Arab and international situations of concern to both the Islamic and Arab world, chiefly gulf issues. They also reviewed the joint coordination between the kingdom and the UAE and bilateral relations.

UAE President Departs

LD251442Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, and his delegation left this morning for Abu Dhabi, where they arrived later in the morning, following the conclusion of a 2-day visit to the kingdom. "Shaykh Muhammad Mansur ar-Rumayyih, the Saudi ambassador to the UAE, said that the visit was successful and useful and that there was agreement on all issues covered by the talks, whether on the Arab, gulf or international level. Shaykh ar-Rumayyih told SNA that the results of the talks between the two leaders will strengthen the ties between the two countries and will benefit the Arab and Islamic nations."

Prince Reports on Talks

LD250350Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 2500 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Jidda, 24 March--Following the meeting today between the two great leaders His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan of the United Arab Emirates, Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that the meeting was the best evidence that the relations between the kingdom and the UAE are deeply rooted and that they are [words indistinct] because they are relations of brotherhood, neighborliness, and religion.

His highness the prince expressed the hope that these relations will grow even stronger with time. In a statement to SNA his highness referred to the proposed Arab summit meeting. He stressed the importance of an Arab meeting in these critical times through which the Arab countries are passing. He said that the situation in Lebanon makes this stage even more critical. He expressed the belief that the Arab countries are unanimous on the need for unified action by the Arab brothers, particularly at the present stage when we are facing the dangers around us. He stressed that today's meeting between King Khalid and his brother His Highness Shaykh Zayid was an expression of this fact. He expressed the hope that the outcome of the meeting would help to close the Arab ranks and unify the Arab stand and strengthen solidarity in facing dangers.

He said that the kingdom and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to attend the proposed Arab summit. He expressed the hope that the meeting will be held at the earliest possible time. Referring to the role that the kingdom and the UAE play in unifying the Arab ranks, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal once again stressed that Arab solidarity is a basic policy of the kingdom. However, he expressed the hope that Arab solidarity will not be mere words but rather action, firm commitments, and good intentions among the brothers. He said: "This is the only way and one of the obvious facts of how to preserve the rights of our Arab world."

Replying to a question regarding the situation of the dollar, his highness said that the question of the dollar is a major issue as is evident in the fact that statements have been made by the countries concerned. He said that the question of the dollar concerns the kingdom, particularly its stability and firmness, because it is the currency with which the kingdom deals with the world countries in its imports and exports. He said that the fluctuations of the dollar undoubtedly affect our foreign trade. Just as the dollar is of interest to the kingdom it is also of interest to other countries.

TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER ARRIVES FOR 4-DAY VISIT

LD260844Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nouira arrived in Jidda after midnight on an official visit to the kingdom lasting 4 days at the invitation of His Royal Higness Amir Fahd, crown prince and deputy prime minister.

Received by Crown Prince

LD261236Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Amir Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, received at 1100 today in Al-M'adhar Palace His Excellency Hedi Nouira, Tunisian prime minister, and the delegation accompanying him.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Amir Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the national guard; His Royal Highness Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; Dr Rashad Fir'awn, private adviser to his majesty the king; and (Abd Rahman Imran), Tunisian ambassador to the kingdom.

RIYAL TO BE IN IMF'S DRAWING RIGHTS CALCULATIONS

LD242025Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] The Council of the Executive Directors of the International Monetary Fund [IMF] has decided to include the Saudi riyal in the group of currencies in which the special drawing right [SDR] is calculated.

This was stated by responsible sources at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy to a correspondent of the SAUDI NEWS AGENCY. He said that this decision, which was taken by the council before the end of last week, would come into force as from the beginning of June 1978 and for a period of 5 years. He said that the Saudi riyal had occupied 10th place among the currencies in which the SDR is calculated from the point of view of its relative weight inside this group of currencies. He said the inclusion of the Saudi riyal among this select group was considered as confirmation of the kingdom's financial position and the strength of the stability of its currency, adding that this decision did not impose obligations of any kind on the kingdom.

MINISTER RECEIVES NEW KUWAITI FATAH REPRESENTATIVE

LD261444Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Mar 78 LD

[Text] His Royal Highness Amir Nayif ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, minister of interior, at noon today received Salim as-Z'anun, Fatah representative in Kuwait and member of the Fatah Central Committee. The latter introduced 'Yasin ash-Sharif, the new Fatah representative in the kingdom to his royal highness during the meeting. The Kuwaiti Fatah representative said that he reviewed with his royal highness the latest developments concerning the Palestinian problem and praised the support and efforts made by the kingdom for Palestine and the Palestinians at all levels.

UAE

PRESIDENT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SALIM RUBAYYI'

NC251945Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1916 GMT 25 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 25 March--UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a message from the chairman of the PDRY Presidential Council, Salim Rubayyi' 'Ali, on strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.

PDRY Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad conveyed the message when Shaykh Zayid received him this evening.

An official source said after the meeting that the bilateral relations between the two countries were reviewed and means were discussed to strengthen them in the various fields in light of the agreement reached during Shaykh Zayid's visit to Aden last year. He added that gulf and Arab questions, particularly the situation in the Horn of Africa, were also reviewed.

TALKS HELD WITH FRENCH MILITARY DELEGATION

JN251225Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 March--The first round of talks between the French military delegation and officials in the UAE Armed Forces General Command was held this morning. During the talks, the two sides discussed military support and following up the implementation of the military agreement concluded between them in 1977, in addition to possible cooperation in the future in this field. The French delegation arrived in Abu Dhabi last night on a visit of several days to the UAE.

SYRIAN BAN ON ASSISTANCE TO S. LEBANON CRITICIZED

JN270806Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0741 GMT 27 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 March--The newspaper AL-WAHDAH today criticizes the decision by the Syrian deterrent forces command to ban the entrance of assistance to the joint forces, saying that this decision paralyzes the resistance to the Zionist occupation and leaves the enemy on the territories south of the Litani River.

The paper adds that the decision of the Syrian deterrent forces means that the Arabs will wait a long time for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, which has now joined Resolution 242. The paper further says that the Arabs have had bitter experience with United Nations resolutions, none of which has been implemented by the Zionist enemy. The newspaper AL-WAHDAH says that the decision by the Syrian deterrent forces command completes Security Council Resolution 425, which keeps the Zionist enemy in southern Lebanon, weakens the resistance to the Zionist enemy and serves its purposes.

YEMEN--PDRY

MINISTER RETURNS FROM GDR, CSSR, BULGARIA

LD271724Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Mahmud Sa'id Madhi, minister of trade and supply, returned to Aden today from the GDR, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia.

"Brother Madhi declared on arrival that his visit had achieved its objectives. He said: The visit of our government's trade delegation to the GDR, the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia dealt with the development of trade relations in relation to the course adopted by the United Political Organization-National Front. He said that they had held meetings with the prime ministers of those countries to discuss the future development of permanent and fruitful trade relations. Furthermore, a number of trade agreements between the PDRY and those countries had been signed. He said: We feel that the future will witness a great development in the trade relations between the PDRY and those countries.

"It is worth mentioning that brother Mahmud Sa'id Madhi had carried a written message from brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, Central Committee member and prime minister, to the premiers of the Peoples Republic of Bulgaria and the GDR. The ADEN NEWS AGENCY reports that brother Madhi is carrying verbal messages from the vice presidents of the Peoples Republic of Bulgaria and the GDR to brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, Politburo member and prime minister."

AS-SADAT GRANTS INTERVIEW TO OCTOBER MAGAZINE

NC251320Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 March--President Anwar as-Sadat has explained that there is an agreement among Camille Sham'un, Hafiz al-Asad and Menahem Begin to establish a Maronite state in southern Lebanon with Israeli guarantees. President as-Sadat said that U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance informed him last year of a pledge undertaken by Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin to the effect that Begin has a moral obligation to protect the Maronites and some Moslems in southern Lebanon.

In an interview granted to OCTOBER magazine, to be published this Sunday, President as-Sadat asked if Ba'thist President Hafiz al-Asad has plans to establish an 'Alawi state. As-Sadat asks: If a Maronite state and an 'Alawi state are established, could anyone, however crazy a Ba'thist he may be, tell us that this (?could be considered) a unification of the Arab ranks?

In his interview, President as-Sadat said that Egypt has no objection to convening an Arab summit conference. However, he added: I do not see any sense in an Arab conference without a clear plan, without a definite comprehensive policy and without a great aim.

President as-Sadat said that we must not lose hope in the call for peace and we must not stop. This is our destiny.

The following is the text of President as-Sadat's interview with OCTOBER magazine conducted by Anis Mansur:

[Question] Mr President, in a previous interview, you spoke about labor pains--that is, the pains that precede the birth of something new in the Middle East or in Egypt or because of something Egypt has done. You meant that something must crystallize that would change the nature of things and subsequently change their course. This is something inevitable, because this is the logic of history whether we like it or not. Days later, blood flowed in southern Lebanon. Is this a sign of the pains that precede birth? Or were you speaking of something else of greater dimensions?

[Answer] I do not know what kind of people they were who planned the Tel Aviv incident. Were they acting out of ignorance or craziness? Did they borrow the Israeli Massada complex, that is, fear of suicide and then committing suicide? Did they also borrow from the Jews the complex of Samson, who brought down the temple on his and his enemies' heads? Did they really destroy everything over their enemies' heads or only over their own heads?

I have denounced the spilling of innocent blood. What guilt did the civilians have? I also have denounced the bestial, bloody Israeli reaction.

When I talk about the logic of history-- hat is, the inevitability of the logic of history--I mean that everything must go forward no matter what. Peace without bloodshed must be achieved because bloodshed will only cause more bloodshed; violence only breeds more violence. What Israel has done over the past 30 years and over the past few days will intensify bitterness and hatred. Israel has expanded its territory but has not increased its security, and it has spilled blood but has not dried its tears. The road that begins with blood and tears is the same road which ends, if it ever does, with the shedding of innocent blood and more innocent tears.

This is what I wanted to put an end to when I called for a peace agreement, when I called for disengagement and for reopening the Suez Canal and when I took the initiative for peace for the present generation of our people, for the whole world and for the coming generations. We must not lose hope in the call for peace. We must not stop. This is our destiny. Each day that passes is our date with fate--it is the trust of history, and, because of this, it is the honor of today and the glory of tomorrow.

[Question] You have announced that you approve of a new summit conference. This conference will undoubtedly look into the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon. However, it has been noted that Egypt is lukewarm about the holding of this conference. In other words, this response indicates that it is the same to Egypt whether this conference is held or not because it would produce nothing. Or is what I say merely my personal impression and a general sequel to the negative and contradictory stands in the Arab world?

[Answer] Egypt's answer was that there is no objection to the holding of any conference. We welcome this. It would be nothing new if we do meet and then break up, say things and raise a clamor, become enthusiastic and see the outbiddings leading to contradictions and the contradictions leading to divisions and see the Arabs after the conferences in a worse position than they had been in before. This is what will happen if everything is not made very clear, if intentions are not sincere and if the aim is not crystal clear. But what do we see now?

I have spoken on previous occasions about the Arab division, which is not new to anybody. Such division existed before, during and after the October war, and it existed before and during the initiative and is still continuing. Nothing has changed. It is true that the call for convening a summit conference is sincere and that the intentions of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Northern Yemen in this regard are sincere, but the prophetic tradition says: The road to Hell is fraught with good intentions. I believe this is what this conference will expose if it is held.

Will the rejectionist states attend and, if they attend, will they change their opinion that the states calling for the convocation of the conference continue to be the most reactionary and backward states and agents of the United States? If they do so, how would they face their peoples? Will they adopt a hypocritical attitude toward the states which call for holding the conference at the conference itself and then resume their abusive campaigns against these states, which they brand as traitors, when the conference ends?

Our experience among ourselves, we the Arabs, has revealed a lot to us. We usually call for a summit conference when we lose our way or when we find our path, but our feet do not help us to walk on this path when we find ourselves unable to think or plan anything or when we try to place the responsibility on others to evade the courage of confrontation and the nobility of sacrifice. It is only under these circumstances that we find people who become enthusiastic about putting on this "masquerading robe," which is called a summit conference. I cannot see any meaning in a conference in which the Arab leaders would meet without having a clear plan, a definite comprehensive policy and a noble aim. Such conferences are no more than a demonstration on the highest level. They must not be like this if we are to take into consideration the concept behind them and our duty to our peoples, God and history.

It is not right that the surprise of the Arab nation should end when it sees that those who have deceived and misled it are turning their conferences into conspiracies and their rites into slogans and accepting the philosophy of give and take, thus betraying millions of the sons of our great nation.

[Question] Mr President, does this mean that Egypt has agreed to attend and that it will observe and not participate in anything? Does this attitude represent some kind of a rejection of the conference's activities or its agenda or the justification for its convocation?

[Answer] The situation requires clarification. If the rejectionist states attend this conference, then it is the duty of all states to present to the world what they have accomplished or what they advocate. Everything must be very clear, and we must call things by their right name. As for Egypt, it has everything that is necessary and more. We have a clear strategy and firm documents. We have the speech that I delivered at the Knesset before the Israeli people and hundreds of millions of television viewers throughout the world. I demanded then, as I demanded before and as I am still demanding, the utmost that the Arab aspires to. I made the entire world witness to what I said. All the world shared in my initiative. All the European states and even the Scandinavian states in the north, which traditionally do not decisively participate in the political problems, particularly if Israel is a party, shared in this initiative. The United States did the same. The stand of President Carter and of his government has been very clear on the questions of total withdrawal, a Palestinian homeland, settlements and Security Council Resolution 242. Furthermore, I have exposed the Israeli Government, particularly Menahem Begin, who is still resisting and prevaricating. He is now facing opposition even from his strongest supporters.

When Vice President Husni Mubarak goes to the conference, he will place all these irrefutable documents before the kings and presidents. If some people have missed what I have said on hundreds of world occasions, then this is a suitable opportunity for them to catch up. All states which claim that they are defending the Arab right and the Palestinian homeland must account for their deeds to the whole world.

[Question] Mr President, during the Riyadh and Cairo summit conferences, the Arab states accorded the status of legality to what Syria has been doing in Lebanon for 20 months. This implies that it is possible to hold more than one summit conference where a body is not called to account, but is, instead, blessed for his actions however blatant they may be--just as Syria has done with Lebanon and with the Palestinian resistance. The Arab summits do this to prevent Arab unity from breaking up. At the upcoming summit conference, how can anyone feel committed to account for what he had done or for what he has refused to do?

[Answer] I admit that the kings and presidents have humored Syria very much at the expense of Lebanon and of the Palestinian resistance. I believe that all of us, in varying degrees, are responsible for what has happened. However, the leaders are always exposed to the judgment of their people, even if it is postponed for a time. Therefore, we cannot turn a page on which the ink or blood has not yet dried. The recent Lebanese incidents have exposed intentions which the leaders have concealed from the people. Are the Arab people aware that Israel had shown the world on television how its tanks were welcomed in southern Lebanon? I am sure that the political leaders are completely aware of this, but do the people know and are they aware of what this means?

The Syrian forces entered Lebanon to achieve two objectives: preservation of Lebanon's independence and protection of the Palestinian resistance. Have the Syrian forces achieved any of this? Have they realized the unity of ranks and territory in Lebanon? Have they protected the Palestinian resistance? I repeat: Have they realized the unity of ranks and territory in Lebanon? Have they protected the Palestinian resistance?

The Ba'thist leader, Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, is asked to explain all of this to the participants of the summit conference. He is asked to explain to all of us, and with courage, Syria's precise aims in Lebanon. What has been achieved in whole and in part and what does he intend to achieve? We want to know and all of the Arab people want to know.

We want him to explain to us his choice of Camille Sham'un as his agent--the archagent among the Arabs. The man himself has admitted this. If he tries to deny this, we have on hand the Baghdad Pact documents showing how he rose and how he resisted until he fell.

Camille Sham'un, his partners and his Maronite followers have a special, excellent relationship with the Ba'thist president, Comrade al-Asad. This is why Camille Sham'un has been so often warmly welcomed in Damascus. The meaning of this has escaped millions of Arabs who do not analyze political events scientifically but resign themselves to what they see and hear, content themselves with their daily work and turn to something else that occupies them, entertains them or distracts them from the situation they are in.

[Question] Mr President, does this mean that there is an agreement between Camille Sham'un and President al-Asad on a plan which has not yet become clear, or among the two and Begin, especially in view of the Syrian forces' attitude toward the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon and the liquidation of the Palestinian resistance, or is it that I am extravagantly simplifying events more than the daily course of the battles tend to show?

[Answer] When I said that it is inevitable that the Ba'thist president, Comrade al-Asad, will explain his aims in detail to the members of the conference, I was referring to your whole question.

I say it very frankly. Last year in Janaklis U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance informed me of a pledge undertaken by Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin to the effect that Begin has a moral obligation to protect the Maronites and some Moslems in southern Lebanon. This means that there is an agreement among Camille Sham'un, Al-Asad and Begin to establish a Maronite state with Israeli guarantees. I myself have read the request of the Maronite leaders--Camille Sham'un's partners--and I have also read Begin's approval of this.

This is not something new but is the outcome of the efforts made secretly and publicly between Israel and southern Lebanon. For over 2 years now there have been normal and natural contacts between southern Lebanon and Israel. There are telephone links, open roads and trade and tourism. The whole world knows that a large number of Maronites and Moslems from the south have gone to Tel Aviv, Jaffa and Haifa, where they have gone out at night, drunk liquor and gambled. The Israeli press has reported all this. No one in Lebanon has denounced this, and no one in Israel has been surprised by it. This activity has become daily and normal.

Is this what the Ba'thist president, Comrade al-Asad, has done--a unification of Lebanon, or a division of Lebanon and a plotting against its people and territory?

Does the Ba'thist president, Comrade al-Asad, dare to reveal frankly to the summit conference the remainder of his aims in Lebanon and elsewhere?

Has the Ba'thist president, Comrade al-Asad, the intention of setting up an 'Alwawite state, while we know that the Syrian Ba'th regime is firstly 'Alawite, secondly Ba'thist and thirdly Syrian?

If the Maronite and 'Alawite states are set up, will anyone, even if he is maniac Ba'thist, dare to tell us that what has happened is a unification of Arab ranks? If he does such a thing, we will go back to our old complaint which precedes and also follows the summit conference--namely, that we do not call things by their real names and for this reason we have always been tricked or have tricked others.

[Question] Since these are the objectives of the Syrian Ba'th, which are definitely clear to some leaders although they are not so to most peoples. what interest has King Husayn in this and what made him side with President al-Asad and later show reservations on various other Arab positions?

[Answer] King Husayn will also be asked to make it clear to the conference why he sided with and then moved away from Al-Asad. Was it because King Husayn had been convinced that President al-Asad was set on the establishment of greater Syria by annexing the other part of Lebanon after the establishment of a Maronite state and by annexing Jordan and the Palestinian state? He would consequently finish off the Palestinian resistance and swallow up the Palestinian people. This would undoubtedly be a great service he would be doing Israel.

As to terming this "great" action, by which President al-Asad would go down in history, it is up to the deceived and slandered Palestinian people to choose an appropriate term. How nice it would be if a name compatible with this position could be found in the minutes of the Tripoli rejection conference sessions.

[Question] If this were a plan by the Syrian Ba'th, Camille Sham'un and company and Menahem Begin, why did we expect the Syrian Army to stop the Israeli invasion of fourthern Lebanon?

[Answer] The Israeli invasion of Lebanon has exposed all the rejection front states, particularly Syria. In Tripoli, the conferees decided that any aggression against any front member state would be an aggression against the other states. An aggression took place against the Palestinian people, who are a party to the rejection front. We regard the Palestinian question as the core of the whole problem. If Israel came to an agreement with all the confrontation states without solving the Palestinian problem, there would be no peace in the area. This is our position, which is a principled one.

However, what happened is that Camille Sham'un reached an agreement with Israel with the knowledge of the Ba'thist president, Al-Asad, requested Israel's protection--with President al-Asad's knowledge--and Israel agreed, with the knowledge of President al-Asad. The Israeli forces subsequently entered and attacked southern Lebanon to exterminate the Palestinians. Syria took no action. It thus deserved the huge gratitude and sincerest thanks of the Israeli commanders and leaders. This is well known to the whole world.

Then, not a single rejection front member state made a move. If a situation like that did not prompt all the rejection states to act, what situation is expected to shake the conscience of the rejectionist rulers? What more violent and ugly situation do they anticipate? Hence, they have deceived their peoples and lied to them. They have disillusioned the Palestinian resistance, for which I feel pity and sorrow, although I cannot feel such a degree of respect for a number of its ignorant and misleading leaders.

All that these rejectionists have is the ridiculous expression which they have learned from the Soviets--namely, a separate solution, that is, that Egypt is seeking a separate solution with Israel. Where is that separate solution now? Who is agreeing, plotting and partitioning Arab territory with Israel now? Who crushed the civilians in Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance in Tall az-Za'tar and in Tyre? The answers to these questions are clear to millions of the sons of the Arab people everywhere. Would President al-Asad find the courage to clarify this to the kings and presidents if he attended the conference?

[Question] Mr President, what exactly is the relationship between the Palestinian resistance and Egypt, if there is a relationship?

[Answer] We have received the appeal Yasir 'Arafat addressed to the Arab kings and presidents. Egypt will not abandon its commitment to the Palestinian people, despite the PLO stand on the disengagement agreement and the peace initiative. Egypt had its say after the Tel Aviv operation. Egypt stressed that peace is the only way to avoid bloodshed and bitterness in the area and that there can be no peace if the Palestinian question is not solved. The Palestinians must realize who it is who means what he says under all circumstances, defends their rights and also defends their right to live, have a homeland and lead a dignified life and who deceives them, buys and sells them, crushes and exterminates them.

I know that the Palestinians are powerless. I have said this often. I have also said that the rejectionist states have added to this all their internal and political problems and that the result has been this ideological disturbance, bewilderment in the Arab capitals and the consequent domination of the deviation in the Palestinians' general conduct. Despite this and many other things, Egypt has not changed and will not change its stand, because this is a commitment and a principle.

[Question] Mr President, you have pointed out more than once in previous statements that Egypt does not object to the restoration of normal relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union, provided there is mutual respect. Has there been anything more than this mere preparedness or has the Soviet Union's stand been exposed by the recent events in Lebanon, as was the stand of the rejectionist states, which reiterate what the Soviet Union had previously declared--to the effect that Egypt is seeking a separate solution--and make charges against Egypt which date back to before the October war and were repeated during and after this war and have been repeated until this day?

[Answer] Nothing has changed but we contacted the five major powers which have the right of veto at the Security Council. We naturally did not discount the Soviet Union. What is really strange is that while the Egyptian foreign minister was meeting with the Soviet minister, Moscow Radio was attacking us and saying that the operation in Lebanon was the result of an agreement among the United States, Israel and Egypt, that is to say, that the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon, the Syrian forces' adoption of a spectator stand toward the occupation of Lebanon, the paralysis which hit the rejectionist states--that all of this from A to Z--constituted a plot agreed upon by Egypt, Israel and the United States.

Could there be anything more absurd or could there be a worse contempt for the people's intelligence? The Egyptian foreign minister spoke to the Soviet ambassador and asked that the Soviets should search for another method rather than scorning people's intelligence, that they should directly assume their responsibility and stop the bloody massacres in southern Lebanon. The attitude of the Soviet officials has not changed. They are of the opinion that as long as Egypt is not a lackey of the Soviet Union, then it is a lackey of the United States. We are neither a lackey of the Soviet Union nor of the United States, but we are the tail, head, mind and heart of Egypt. This is our problem. Our desire to uphold these principles has always been the cause of our difficulties with the Soviet Union and others. What has the Soviet Union done to stop what happened in southern Lebanon? It has done no more than the rejectionist states did. They have done nothing. If we ask now: Which states can influence Israel, the answer to this question will undoubtedly be: It is the United States.

We saw what the Soviet Union did a few days after the Israeli invasion. As usual, the Soviets closed their doors for 4 days, discussing, thinking and deciding, while the United States decided to support an immediate withdrawal from southern Lebanon and to send an interim UN force until the Lebanese Army became able to control the situation.

This is the United States, which has plotted with Israel and Egypt to storm southern Lebanon. Is what they are saying not an ideological hallucination and an insult to the intelligence of the people? We find that President Carter has taken positive and very bold stands, and yet the rejectionist states accuse him of being weak and negative. Now they must ask themselves about the more positive and decisive stands which have been taken by the Soviet Union, their master and overlord, in recent days and even before that. They are people who do not know the meaning of the word "shame."

The condition of these states which call themselves rejectionist states will not improve unless God sends them other rulers who are more truthful, more courageous and more noble in their aims.

[Question] Mr President, have the states calling for a summit conference asked for Cairo to be the venue of the meeting, or have they not done this because you said that those who curse Egypt and insult its people will not enter Egypt?

[Answer] I have said that there is no objection to taking part in this conference at any place and at any time. No one has asked for Cairo to be the venue of the meeting. Even if they were to choose Cairo, I would also have no objection. Since the Arab League has its headquarters in Cairo, there is no objection to their entry. I will prevent no one from entering.

However, when I declared that those leaders and politicians who curse Egypt will not enter it, I meant that I would not accord the usual official and popular welcome to them. The state sees no harm in having any Arab or foreigner enter Egypt. Therefore, they will enter Cairo just as the UN delegates enter New York, where the UN headquarters is located. If this conference is convened, we shall see what can be added or what demands and stands anyone can add to what Egypt has already done on the Arab and international levels.

GHURBAL ARRIVES WITH CARTER MESSAGE TO AS-SADAT

NC271509Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 March--The Egyptian ambassador to the United States, Dr Ashraf Ghurbal, arrived in Cairo this afternoon from Washington on a visit lasting several days. Dr Ghurbal stated upon his arrival that he is carrying a written message from U.S. President Jimmy Carter for President Anwar as-Sadat and an oral message from U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance for Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil. He said that during his visit he will submit a report on the period since President as-Sadat's visit to Washington--a period which is full of developments. He will also review recent conditions and developments in the Middle East issue.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER

NC271503Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1438 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 March--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today received the Moroccan minister of state in charge of foreign affairs, M'hamed Boucetta, who is currently visiting Cairo.

YAR FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH MINISTER KAMIL

NC261408Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 March--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil held a meeting with YAR Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Asnaj at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon. During the meeting they reviewed current Arab topics, the latest developments in the Middle East and the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon. They also discussed topics connected with the Arab League Council meeting which will begin tomorrow and the YAR's call for an Arab summit conference. The YAR foreign minister will head his country's delegation to the Arab League Council meeting.

Meeting With Mubarak

NC271229Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 27 March--Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received the YAR foreign minister, 'Abdallah al-Asnaj. The Yemeni ambassador in Cairo, Hasan as-Sahuli, attended the meeting.

GHALI RETURNS FROM VISITS TO INDIA, SRI LANKA

NC251910Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1934 GMT 25 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 March--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali returned to Cairo from New Delhi today following a visit to Sri Lanka and India. The tour lasted 10 days. After his return, Dr Butrus Ghali said that he conveyed oral messages from President as-Sadat to the heads of these countries and that the messages were related to the situation in the Middle East, starting with the peace initiative and up to the latest Israeli attack on southern Lebanon.

Ghali said that he has oral replies to the messages from the heads of the two states. The replies express complete support for the Arab cause and the peace initiative. They also express the two countries' readiness to coordinate efforts to carry out the nonalined policy. Ghali pointed out that the two countries are extremely interested in maintaining their friendship with Egypt.

Ghali said that his visit to these two countries complements his trip to Belgrade since Yugoslavia, India and Sri Lanka have leading roles in the nonalined movement. He said that the aim of all these visits was to prepare for the conference of the nonalined coordination bureau, which is scheduled to be held in the capital of Afghanistan, Kabul, next May. Ghali said that the visits were also designed to prepare things for the extraordinary session of the UN General Assembly which will be discussing the disarmament question. This session will be held next May. Ghali further said that his visits were also aimed at preparing the ground for the nonalined foreign ministers conference, which is scheduled to be held in Belgrade next July. This conference is aimed at strengthening and giving new impetus to the nonalined policy.

U.S. CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS RECEIVED BY AS-SADAT

NC2615352 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 26 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 March--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat today received the U.S. chief of naval operations, Adm James Holloway, at the presidential palace in 'Abidin. The meeting was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak, Deputy Prime Minister and War Minister Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi and U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts.

Meeting With Al-Jamasi

NC2612452 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 March--The deputy prime minister and war and war production minister, Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, received in his ofice this morning the U.S. chief of naval operations, Adm James Holloway. The meeting was attended by Naval Forces Commander Rear Adm Ashraf Rif'at. Adm James Holloway arrived in Cairo yesterday on a visit of several days.

Meeting With Rear Adm Rif'at

NC2713212 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1243 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 27 March--The Egyptian naval forces commander, Rear Admiral Ashraf Rif'at, today received the U.S. chief of naval operations, Admiral Holloway, who is currently visiting Egypt. Rif'at and Holloway visited naval forces and formations, destroyer units, mine sweepers and rocket launches.

Admiral Holloway arrived in Cairo 2 days ago on a visit of several days. He is scheduled to leave Alexandria for Cairo today.

EGYPTIAN, PRC MINISTERS SIGN TRADE PROTOCOL

JN2517312 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1612 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 March--A trade protocol between Egypt and the PRC for this year was signed this evening in Cairo. The volume of trade amounts to $120 million, $7 million more than last year's. The protocol was signed for Egypt by Zakariya Tawfiq 'Abd al-Fattah, minister of trade and supply, and for the PRC by Li Chiang, Chinese foreign trade minister, who is currently visiting Egypt at the head of a high-level delegation.

PRC Minister Leaves Cairo

NC280947Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0927 GMT 28 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 28 March--PRC Foreign Trade Minister Li Chiang left Cairo today after a 5-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt during which he met with Prime Minister Mamduh Salim and signed the 1978 Egyptian-PRC trade protocol.

ASSEMBLY DISCUSSES REPORT ON MEMBER'S EXPULSION

NC271339Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The People's Assembly resumed its meetings this morning under the chairmanship of Speaker Engineer Sayyid Mar'i. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mamduh Salim, the deputy prime ministers and the ministers. The assembly began by discussing a report by the assembly Legislative Committee. The report included the committee's approval of terminating the membership of 'Ashur Muhammad Nasr, assembly member for the customs policy district constituency in the Province of Alexandria, as proposed by certain members of the assembly.

AIR FORCE COMMANDER ATTENDS GRADUATION CEREMONY

JN251636Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] Cairo, 25 March--Air Force Maj Gen Mahmud Shakir 'Abd al-Mun'im, commander of the air force, has announced that the maintenance and serviceability of air force planes has reached a high standard despite the ban imposed upon us concerning spare parts. General 'Abd al-Mun'im said that this high standard has been reached due to the efforts of the commanders, engineers and mechanics who form the base of repair and maintenance in the air force.

In a speech today at the graduation ceremony of a new group of trainees--including some students from fraternal Sudan--from the aircraft maintenance training center, the commander said that he has seen a high standard of training which has matched the training of the best military colleges. Announcing the percentage of those who graduated, the chief instructor said that 90 percent passed the examinations. The methods of instruction, he said, are commensurate with the lessons learned during the October war in addition to the advanced technology in the field of aviation.

CAIRO RADIO ASSAILS ISRAELI CABINET DECISION

NC271512Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Fawzi Surur commentary: "Israeli Mines Under the Bridges of Peace in the Middle East"]

[Excerpts] Following a 5-hour meeting, the Israeli Cabinet unanimously adopted a decision supporting the so-called Begin peace plan, declaring that this plan serves as a fair basis for negotiations aimed at establishing peace in the Middle East. This means that the ruling establishment in Tel Aviv still adheres to its arrogant and adamant stand, which has led to the suspension of the efforts for establishing a just and permanent peace in the area. This Israeli Government decision is a link in the chain of practices and stands which have revealed from the beginning Israel's inability to comprehend the basic requirements for establishing the desired peace.

Thus, the chronic Arab-Israeli conflict faces further complications which threaten the entire situation in the Middle East with a new explosion. The Israeli leaders have proven now beyond doubt that they are captives of the old and overused conceptions which the old guard in Israel has tried to establish and which the present generation of Israeli leaders is faithfully adopting.

Perhaps there was justification for these stands before the Egyptian peace initiative. This initiative has offered Israel every guarantee for its security, but Israel--as President as-Sadat said during his meeting with a delegation from U.S. universities yesterday--still wants security at the expense of our lands and rights.

We completely reject this because it totally conflicts with the objective conditions which are necessary for establishing the desired peace. The area and Israel in particular will not see such peace materialize unless there is total and complete withdrawal from the territories Israel occupied during its aggressive war against the Arabs in June 1967 and unless Israel recognizes the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

Begin's attitude and that of his extremist group and their refusal to solve the issue of peace are in complete parity with their previous stands and refute wire dispatches and reports from foreign quarters that there is a crisis within the ranks of the Tel Aviv government. It is true that some opposition might appear here and there but it is clear now that this opposition is a party tactic aimed at convincing world public opinion and some of the parties to the dispute of the good intentions of Begin and his group with regard to peace.

It is no longer disputable that Begin's policy of subverting peace--represented by his opposition to immediate and total withdrawal, his support to the Israeli settlement plans in the Arab territories, his adamant refusal to recognize the Palestinian people's rights, his complete disregard for legality and the UN resolutions, particularly UN Resolution 242, his indulgence in giving different interpretations to Resolution 242, and his opposition to the sale of U.S. jet aircraft to Egypt and Saudi Arabia--is tantamount to mines which are being put under the bridges to peace in the Middle East. This makes it incumbent on the Arabs, all the Arabs, to face this serious challenge.

AL-AHRAM CALLS FOR U.S. DECISIVENESS WITH ISRAEL

NC251055Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 Mar 78 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpt] In their morning editions today the Cairo newspapers give prominence to the special session of the National Security Council to be convened today under the chairmanship of President as-Sadat to discuss Egypt's strategy for facing the latest developments in the Middle East. Cairo's papers note that the council will discuss the dimensions of the upcoming diplomatic moves in light of reports and information received by President as-Sadat on the meetings between President Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin.

The Cairo papers also shed light on the reaction to the conclusion of the talks held between President Carter and Begin. These papers particularly refer to the U.S. secretary of state's demand that Israel amend its stand and to his affirmation that the U.S. side has submitted new ideas on the issue of peace to the Israeli leadership--ideas about which consultations are expected to be held with Cairo.

In this context, AL-AHRAM carried a comment under the title: "The Required U.S. Decisiveness." In its comment the paper notes that the U.S. announcement, which says that at his talks with President Jimmy Carter, Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin failed to find a solution to the differences between them over the basic issues impeding the peacemaking process in the Middle East, reflects basic factors governing the policy of the present Israeli prime minister and loads the U.S. President with enormous responsibilities and commitments. First, Menahem Begin indeed does not want to attain a just and comprehensive solution in the area. Second, if an Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories takes place, it will not be effected on all the fronts and in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 242. Third, Begin will not respond to the resolutions passed by the international community on the Palestinian problem, which consider the Palestinian problem the focal point of the conflict in the area.

We do not doubt for one moment that U.S. President Carter understood these facts very well at his latest talks with the Israeli prime minister. Such facts affirm beyond any doubt that if Begin is not an obstacle to the present peace process, his presence at this time considerably imperils the peace and security of the whole area. The recent Washington talks entail major responsibilities and commitments for U.S. President Carter. Everybody is now looking forward to the upcoming U.S. role. This role will not assume its true dimensions unless Washington decisively determines its stand now that the true nature of Begin's attitude has become clear without a shred of doubt. Begin's stance is about to blow the peace and stability of the area away with the wind. We reckon that the U.S. president has ample means to translate the required decisiveness into applicable and effective resolutions.

CAIRO PRESS COMMENTS ON EGYPT'S PEACE STRATEGY

NC270807Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpt] Under the headline "A Firm Strategy for Peace," the newspaper AL-AHRAM says today: Following the National Security Council meeting, which was held under the chairmanship of President Anwar as-Sadat the day before yesterday, the minister of foreign affairs made a statement on the results of the meeting indicating that Egypt will continue its peaceful efforts to reach a just and a comprehensive solution of the Middle East problem.

The paper explains that the statement affirms the strategy for peace which Egypt has campaigned for since the end of the October war in 1973. Since then Egypt has been waging a battle for peace, the climax of which was President as-Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem and his address to the Israeli Knesset in which he declared to the whole world, which was closely following the events, that Egypt extends its hand in peace.

The paper notes that since then several changes have taken place in world public opinion, in the world's understanding of Arab logic, in U.S. relations with the Arabs and recently in U.S. relations with Israel. The latest divergence in the views of President Carter and Menahem Begin is the best evidence of this. Therefore, Egypt's strategy for peace and the battle it is waging for peace are constantly adding to the credibility of the Arab states. This credibility will further increase if all the Arabs utilize such a strategy.

The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH expresses the belief that dreams for peace in the Middle East should not be inextricably linked to a possible downfall of Begin and his government and the coming of a new Israeli leadership. The future of peace in one of the most dangerous areas in the world cannot depend upon one man. Begin's hostile thinking and ideas reflect not only his own ideas, but the broader ideas of Zionism as well.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: Begin's downfall, for example, would come as a result of his hardline stand on the question of settlements, his strange interpretation of Security Council Resolution 242 and his claim that the resolution does not apply to the West Bank and Gaza. Another government representing a national coalition or the opposition Labor Party would only offer, for example, to retain half of the settlements and remove the other half or to recognize that Resolution 242 applies to all fronts, but at the same time refuse to withdraw to the 1967 borders.

The paper says that neither Begin nor the opposition would agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state along their border. Hence, we must not attach our hopes for peace on Begin's downfall or the possibility of that he will change his views. We must remember that from 1948 until last year Begin was not in power in Israel. Nevertheless, Israel attacked us in 1956 and 1967 and refused to withdraw until after the October war. AL-JUMHURIYAH concludes by saying that Middle East peace will only be created by Arab solidarity, Arab unity and Arab readiness. However, the current state of division and conflict among the Arabs will only encourage the doves of Israel to become hawks.

CAIRO RADIO DISCUSSES GOALS OF CARTER TOUR

NC280842Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Mar 78 NC

[Unattributed comment]

[Text] President Carter today begins a 7-day trip in the second round of the international tour which he began last January. He will visit Venezuela and Brazil in Latin America and Nigeria and Liberia in Africa. He will discuss a number of questions with leaders of the fours states, including the energy problem, oil prices and developments in the Horn of Africa due to the growing Soviet and Cuban presence there. He will also discuss the relations between industrialized and developing countries and the new U.S. position in its relations with Third World states. President Carter will travel more than 23,000 km. The primary goal of the tour is to affirm the importance of U.S. relations with the growing powers in the Third World and the nonalined states.

President Carter will begin his tour with a visit to Venezuela, which played a role in mediating the recent agreements between the United States and Panama. Venezuela, which is a founding member of OPEC and which exports half of its oil production to the United States, did not comply with the OPEC oil embargo in 1973. During his visit to Brazil, which is the largest Latin American country, President Carter will seek to ease the tension in the relations between the two countries. This tension is the result of strong U.S. criticism of Brazil because of the atomic reactors deal which Brazil concluded with West Germany and Brazil's attitude toward human rights and increasing acts of coercion and torture against those opposing the government's policy.

During his visit to Nigeria, which also supplies oil to the United States, President Carter will affirm U.S. interest in helping the African states solve their problems. He will also stress this to officials in Liberia, with whom the United States has firm relations. President Carter's visit to Nigeria and Liberia is the first official visit by a U.S. president to black Africa since Franklin Roosevelt visited Liberia following the 1943 Casablanca conference.

SYRIA ACCUSED OF HINDERING IRAQI AID TO PALESTINIANS

Passage of Tanks Denied

JN251552Y Cairo DPA in Arabic 1507 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Paris, 25 March--A statement issued by the Iraqi Embassy here today says that Iraq accused Syria of preventing the passage of the Iraqi tanks which were intended to help the Palestinians in southern Lebanon.

The statement adds that Syria did not allow the Iraqi tanks to pass through Syrian territory under the pretext that the Palestinians needed personal weapons, not tanks.

The statement further says that even before denying passage for the Iraqi tanks--the statement does not specify the date of the refusal--Syria stipulated that arms and medical aid for the Palestinians in southern Lebanon should be given to it for delivery to the Palestinians in southern Lebanon.

The statement mentions that despite this Iraq managed to offer the required help to the Palestinians in time.

It will be recalled that Iraq and Syria have had disputes for a long time. These disputes led to the closure of borders 2 months ago. On 17 March Syria agreed to Iraq's request to send arms and volunteers to Lebanon via Syria.

Trade Unions Message

JN280851Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 28 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 28 March--The Iraqi Confederation of Trade Unions has called upon all Arab trade union federations to pressure the regime of Hafiz al-Asad to make it reverse its decision preventing supplies from reaching the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement in southern Lebanon.

In a cable sent to these federations today, the Iraqi confederation said that at a time when Iraq is rushing all forms of political, material and manpower support to the joint forces of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement to strengthen their resistance in the face of the Zionist invasion, the Syrian regime has issued its decision preventing assistance, volunteers and even medical supplies from reaching Lebanon.

The confederation called on all Arab trade union confederations to assume their responsibility in foiling the attempt of the Syrian regime, "which remained a spectator to the Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon."

The confederation emphasized that supporting the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the hundreds of thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese refugees is a national and humanitarian task which must be assumed by everyone.

Lebanese Decision on Entry

JN280909Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 28 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 28 March--In a comment today, the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH says that the decision of the Lebanese security authorities to ban entry into Lebanon to anyone who has not obtained an entry visa beforehand is, in fact, a Syrian decision. It was only issued by the Lebanese Government to give it legality.

The paper refers to the attitude of the Lebanese authorities, including this last decision, and says the only reason for it is to tie the hands of the Palestinian and Lebanese fighters.

ATH-THAWRAH says that Lebanon's real sovereignty lies in protecting that country's Arabism; hence the need for every effort to back the steadfastness, the confrontation and the fighting.

The paper adds: We do not think that Lebanon's Arabism and real sovereignty are being served by closing the door to Arab fighters. Neither are they served by besieging the steadfast fighters in southern Lebanon.

45,000 PEASANTS VOLUNTEER TO FIGHT IN LEBANON

JN261433Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1352 GMT 26 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 March--The number of Iraqi peasants who have voluneered to fight alongside the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the Palestinian resistance has reached well over 45,000, and the funds they have contributed has reached 130,000 dinars.

This was announced by Muhsin ash-Sha'lan, secretary general of the Peasants Cooperative Societies, here today. He added that the Iraqi peasants have responded to the dictates of the pan-Arab duty to fight alongside the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the Palestinian resistance against the treacherous [words indistinct] attack on southern Lebanon.

FOOD SUPPLIES SENT TO EVACUEES IN LEBANON

JN271028Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1002 GMT 27 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 27 March--A convoy of 21 vehicles laden with foodstuffs--assistance to the citizens of southern Lebanon evacuated from the area as a result of the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon--arrived this morning at the Syrian-Iraqi border.

The INA correspondent has learned that the foodstuffs will be handed over to the Lebanese authorities for distribution to evacuees, who number in the thousands. Iraq has been offering similar assistance since the beginning of the Zionist aggression. An Iraqi health mission is presently working in southern Lebanon and refugee camps providing medical care to victims of the Zionist aggression.

PRESIDENT'S SON MUHAMMAD KILLED IN CAR ACCIDENT

JN250747Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 March--The Presidential Office announces with extreme sorrow and grief the death of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr's son Muhammad, who was killed in a regrettable accident this morning.

The Presidential Office issued the following statement: The Presidential Office announces with extreme sorrow and grief the death of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr's son Muhammad who was killed in a regrettable accident this morning. His funeral will start at 1300 today at 14 July Square.

A Holy Koran recitation will be held at the Al-Khuld Hall from 1700 to 2100 today and for the next 3 days.

Further Details on Accident

JN260816Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 26 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 March--Today's papers publish details of the regrettable accident in which Muhammad, the son of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, died along with his wife and her sister. The papers also publish pictures of the car, which collided with a truck loaded with 10 tons of gravel.

An official source at the Interior Ministry last night said that the car the late Muhammad was driving was a Mercedes which crashed into the rear of a loaded truck on the highway near Balad district in northern Iraq. The late Muhammad was on his way back to Baghdad in the evening 2 days ago. A number of his relatives were with him in the car as he was returning from Umm al-Qura subdistrict in Tikrit Province.

The official source added that a number of passersby rushed to the scene of the accident and transported the deceased and the injured to a hospital in Balad. The late Muhammad died after arriving at the hospital. His late wife Nidal 'Abd al-Karim an-Nada and her sister Sundus also died. Two other sisters of the wife, Wisal and Manal 'Abd al-Karim an-Nada, were injured.

The source further said that the technical reports on the accident established that the death was due to the force of the collision between the car of deceased and the truck which was being driven by Sabah Kazim Jasim. The truck was loaded with 10 tons of gravel.

ELF LEADER SABBE CONCLUDES VISIT, MAKES STATEMENT

JN241401Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 24 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 24 March--Osman Saleh Sabbe, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF]--the popular liberation forces--today concluded a visit of several days to Iraq. During his meetings with a number of officials in the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command, Sabbe discussed the current situation in Eritrea and the developments in the Horn of Africa. In a statement to INA Sabbe praised the principled, firm stands of the leadership of the Ba'th Party and the revolution toward reaching a just political solution to the Eritrean issue which will fulfill the legitimate aspirations of the Eritrean people for freedom and self-determination.

Sabbe expressed his appreciation for the financial and political support given by Iraq to the Eritrean revolution. He called upon the Arab countries to take action to support the Eritrean revolution and to confront any new Ethiopian aggression against its territory. Sabbe expects the Ethiopian regime to launch a new aggression against the Eritrean people in the next few weeks.

AR-RA'Y WARNS OF ISRAELI PLANS IN LEBANON

JN280720Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Mar 78 pp 1, 13 JN

[Editorial: "Cantons in the South"]

[Text] After the failure of Begin's talks in Washington, Israel has begun a parallel propaganda campaign on two fronts:

On the first, it is leaking information and reports about the possible resumption of the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations and a visit by the Zionist war minister to Cairo to revive the Military Committee talks.

On the second, it is making up excuses, such as the continued shelling of settlements in the northern part of occupied Palestine by resistance men and the continued attacks on the Israeli forces in occupied southern Lebanon, to prolong its occupation of the area in order to establish the first religious entity in southern Lebanon and thus justify the existence of the racist Zionist entity in the Arab world.

Although this Zionist propaganda about the imminent resumption of the bilateral negotiations aims at misleading world public opinion, since no Arab side can negotiate with Israel, Israel's action in linking this subject with its measures, practices and pronouncements concerning the fate of southern Lebanon clearly reveals the inborn desire of the Zionist aggressors to create an autonomy in southern Lebanon of a specific sectarian nature after the Zionist propaganda media have paved the way for this by announcing the alleged desires of the population in southern Lebanon.

Hence, we can understand the implications of the threats made by the Zionist war minister that Israel will reoccupy southern Lebanon if the resistance men do not stop their attacks on the occupation forces.

If the 7-day war, with all its atrocities, tragedies and challenges, has not led to a solid Arab front against the dangers of the Zionist aggression against Lebanon, we can justify that by saying that the Arabs had prior knowledge that the United States would act quickly to make the UN Security Council intervene--an intervention which led to Resolution 425 and the landing of the UN emergency forces in southern Lebanon.

But what we fear most is that the Arabs will now go into a slumber, relying on international promises, and southern Lebanon will thus meet the same fate as that of the Golan, the West Bank, Gaza, Sinai and even pre-1948 Palestine.

This is because Israel is planning and executing very grave measures affecting the social, political and cultural structure of Arab existence. It may use the UN emergency forces as a cover for its plan to establish an autonomy linked with the Zionist military administration in southern Lebanon.

PREMIER BADRAN RECEIVES LIBYAN AMBASSADOR

JN280655Y Amman AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 28 Mar 78 p 1 JN

[Text] Amman, AL-AKHBAR--Prime Minister Mudar Badran received in his office today the Libyan ambassador in Amman. The discussion during the meeting dealt with relations between the two fraternal countries and the latest developments in the area.

PREMIER AL-HUSS, 'ARAFAT REVIEW SITUATION IN SOUTH

NC272115Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Text] His Excellency Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss this evening reviewed with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat the developments of the situation in the southern area, as well as the measures needed to implement the UN Security Council resolution on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from southern Lebanon. Prime Minister al-Huss this morning visited Tyre and Sidon and discussed the conditions and requirements of the area with officials there.

Al-Huss Visits Tyre

NC271355Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Prime Minister and Information Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today paid an inspection visit to Al-Janub Province. Prime Minister al-Huss, Al-Janub Province Governor Halim Fayyad, and others then went to the city of Tyre where a meeting was held at Government House. In Government House Prime Minister al-Huss was briefed on the security and aid demands of the city. He also spoke to some citizens from Tyre and southern Lebanon, who called for the return of state authority to the south so each person can enjoy security and peace and thus devote his energies to development and construction.

Prime Minister al-Huss then inspected the damage caused to the city of Tyre, particularly in the port area, As-Samak Square and the market. The prime minister and his accompanying delegation visited the Tyre barracks, where the UN forces have been located. He met with Col Pierre Germain Salvan and was informed about the situation of the UN forces in Tyre and nearby. On his way back Prime Minister al-Huss and his delegation visited the first refugee center near (Al-Awali) Bridge and listened to the demands of the refugees. The refugees insisted on returning to their villages and property and on insuring the return of law and state authority throughout the south.

Speaking at the end of his tour, the prime minister said: [begin recording] The purpose of my visit to the Tyre this morning was to inspect the general situation and living conditions after the Israeli aggression against Lebanon. This visit was very beneficial in that it enabled me to have a firsthand look at the problems and conditions in the area. This will enable us to activate the official departments in the area to do as much as they can to ease the sufferings of the people as soon as possible and to facilitate the return of the refugees. Everyone demands this.

The situation in the Tyre area requires much serious work. We will concentrate on this as soon as possible, God willing. [end recording]

Al-Huss Fired On

NC271746Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss came under fire which it is thought, most likely, came from armed Palestinians. This occurred at noon today while the prime minister was on his way back from the south. The incident occurred near the Abu al-Aswad Bridge on the way between Sidon and Tyre, which is dominated by the Palestinian organizations.

Beirut Denies Report

NC271757Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Text] An official source at the Ministry of Information has denied a report put out by the Monte Carlo radio this evening that the motorcade of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss came under fire while Dr al-Huss was on his way back from an inspection visit to the south today. The source added that the prime minister made his inspection visit, met with officials there, discussed the problems and conditions of the area and then returned to Beirut.

'Arafat, Al-Huss Discuss Incident

NC280750Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 28 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss last night received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The meeting was described as an attempt by the PLO chairman to contain the incident involving Prime Minister al-Huss' motorcade at Al-Aswad Bridge, when the prime minister was returning to Beirut from the south yesterday.

'Arafat expressed surprise and regret at the incident. He said that he was completely unaware of the incident and hoped that a denial of the report would be issued to preserve Lebanese-Palestinian relations. It is known that Prime Minister al-Huss' motorcade was fired on but no one was hurt. The incident came a few days after Prime Minister al-Huss adopted a courageous stand on the south, calling on the Palestinian resistance not to create any pretexts for Israel.

FOREIGN MINISTER BUTRUS MEETS WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR

NC271330Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Text] At noon today Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus met with the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, Richard Parker. Ambassador Parker said after the meeting: Today we discussed implementation of the UN Security Council resolution and exchanged views and information on the developments in the area.

Asked whether he is optimistic about Israeli withdrawal, Ambassador Parker said: Of course. Asked about the report that there will be no Israeli withdrawal before Lebanon establishes authority in the south and before the UN peace forces have been deployed there, the ambassador said: These are details. But I am sure withdrawal will take place. Asked whether there is a specific time for withdrawal, he said: I do not know the time.

After his meeting with the U.S. ambassador, Minister Butrus said: We reviewed the stages of implementation of the UN Security Council resolution in the south and the measures which have been taken and are being taken for this purpose. We also discussed the political situation in the area, especially after the Israeli prime minister's visit to the United States and the effects of his talks in Washington on the situation in the Middle East.

Asked whether it is true that the U.S.-Israeli talks failed, Minister Butrus said: According to the information we have, the talks did not succeed and did not result in an identity of views. Asked whether he expects the failure of the U.S.-Israeli talks to have repercussions in the area, Minister Butrus said: I have no answer at present. Any political crisis on a certain level can have negative or positive repercussions, but I can say nothing at this stage as far as Lebanon is concerned.

Minister Butrus was asked: The U.S. ambassador has affirmed that the Israelis will withdraw. Is there a timetable for the withdrawal? Minister Butrus said: We are currently discussing the stages of withdrawal. This will result in a timetable drawn up under the supervision of General Siilasvuo, the representative of the UN secretary general. He added: I think that General Siilasvuo will visit Beirut this week. The date of his visit will be set in light of developments in the country and the arrival of the UN peace-keeping forces in Lebanon.

Asked about the date of his meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in the wake of their contacts last Saturday, Minister Butrus said: There is nothing definite about such a meeting.

Meets Norwegian, Egyptian Envoys

NC271257Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Foreign Ministry today continued its diplomatic contacts on deployment of the UN peace forces in the south and on expediting withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus today met with the Norwegian ambassador to Lebanon. The ambassador said after the meeting that he and Minister Butrus discussed the question of the arrival of the first group of the Norwegian contingent which will join the UN peace forces in Lebanon. He added that more Norwegian forces will arrive in Beirut within the next 5 days. He estimated the number of Norwegian troops in the UN peace force at about 800 men, including some technicians.

The ambassador said that the foreign minister thanked him on behalf of the Lebanese Government for the aid which the Norwegian Government provided to the International Red Cross. This aid is estimated at 1 million Norwegian krone. It is earmarked for assistance to the refugees. The foreign minister also conveyed the thanks of the Lebanese Government for Norway's interest in the situation in southern Lebanon and its participation in the UN peace forces.

Minister Butrus later met with the Egyptian charge d'affaires, Wajih Hamdi. The Egyptian charge d'affaires stated after the meeting that he called on the foreign minister on the occasion of his departure from Beirut for Cairo this week and that he passed on the greetings of the Egyptian foreign minister. He said that the discussion did not go beyond this.

Asked about Egypt's position on the recent events in Lebanon, the Egyptian charge d'affaires said: We support the unity and independence of Lebanon and its sovereignty over all its territory. Egypt is doing its best to help achieve this. Asked about Egypt's position on the extension of the mandate of the Arab deterrent forces in Lebanon, he said: As far as we are concerned, we consider this subject closed. Egypt has already stated officially that it has no intention of participating in the Arab deterrent forces.

SAUDI AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH CAMILLE SHAM'UN

JN271903Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 27 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 27 March--Saudi Ambassador to Lebanon 'Ali ash-Sha'ir today met with Camille Sham'un, leader of the Lebanese rightist front. The Phalangist radio, which reported this, declined to elaborate on the subjects which they discussed, although it said that similar meetings will take place between the Saudi ambassador and the other leaders of the Lebanese rightist front.

SARKIS MEETS WITH ARAB DETERRENT FORCES COMMANDER

NC271415Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The president of the republic this morning held a meeting with the commander of the Arab deterrent forces. They discussed the security situation in the country and the implementation of the Arab deterrent forces command statement prohibiting the entry of weapons and armed men into Lebanon.

The commander of the Arab deterrent forces presented a security report to the president on the tasks undertaken by the Arab deterrent forces in the past few days and the tasks they intend to carry out soon. It has been reported that the Arab deterrent forces command is currently preparing a new security plan to redistribute the Arab deterrent forces in a manner consistent with the deployment of the UN forces and the assumption of security tasks in the capital and its suburbs by the regular Lebanese forces.

AN-NABATIYAH RESIDENTS SEEK HELP FROM DEPUTIES

NC280722Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] A large mass delegation representing An-Nabatiyah town and area went to the Chamber of Deputies yesterday for a meeting with Speaker al-As'ad and members of the National Parliamentary grouping. The delegation demanded that all non-Lebanese armed personnel be evicted from An-Nabatiyah town and area and that forces of the Lebanese legitimate authority replace them to pave the way for the complete return of the legitimate authority to the area. The members of the delegation said they are prepared to defend their area at any cost.

In reply, Speaker al-As'ad affirmed that the security of the south is essential. Security provided by the regular Lebanese forces, the UN forces, or the Arab deterrent forces must be complete or it is worth nothing, he said. The aim of the state's efforts should be security and stability throughout southern Lebanon.

PROVOCATION OF FRENCH IN TYRE REPORTED

NC280715Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 28 Mar 78 NC

[Text] According to reports received this morning in Beirut, the situation in Tyre is uneasy because armed men there do not respect the French contingent, which is billeted in the Tyre barracks. Official reports say that the French contingent has been attacked and provoked more than once.

It is worth noting that the Palestinian-leftist alliance continues to wage a campaign expressing doubts about the French contingent. This has prompted the French ambassador in Lebanon to lodge an official complaint with the official authorities, requesting that they stop this campaign because France decided to send its forces to Lebanon to serve peace. France is very disappointed that some parties resort to casting doubts on its role.

Concerning efforts to improve the situation in the south, well-informed sources have told the voice of Lebanon of diplomatic contacts between the United States and the Vatican in order to further internationalize the Lebanese question and enable Lebanon to avoid any security problems which might arise in the Middle East.

ARMY COMMAND FORMS COMMITTEE FOR EVACUEES

NC2807427 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The government's work for the evacuees is moving in two parallel lines: encouraging the evacuees to return to their homes and villages, and providing them the necessary services in the present phase. Within this context the fifth section of the army command has issued the following statement:

On 25 March 1978 the Army command formed a committee under the chairmanship of Staff Col Zayn Makki. The committee also includes four army officers: an officer from the Arab deterrent force, an officer from the Internal Security Department, a representative from the Higher Committee for Relief and a representative from the south council. It has begun taking measures to organize and follow up the return of the evacuees to their homes.

SOCIALISTS OPPOSE USING UN AGAINST NATIONALISTS

JN2810147 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0924 GMT 28 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 28 March--The Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has warned of current plans to divert the UN forces in southern Lebanon from their basic task of terminating the Zionist occupation to becoming an instrument for protecting this occupation.

A statement issued by the party today says that the new Israeli threats show that the Zionist acts of aggression are not a reaction to fedayeen operations but an expression of Zionist expansionist designs. The statement warns of rightist attempts to exploit the aggression in order to force the Palestinian resistance to concede rights it has gained under agreements with the Lebanese authorities. The statement says that the talk about reopening the so-called dossier on the Palestinian presence in Lebanon must be viewed in this perspective. The statement calls on the Lebanese authorities not to heed such suspicious calls, for the sake of stability and national accord.

OFFICIAL DISCUSSES MODIFICATION OF UN RESOLUTION

NC2808457 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0815 GMT 28 Mar 78 NC

[Text] A diplomatic source has stated that if all parties in southern Lebanon continue to violate the cease-fire, the Lebanese situation will be raised again at the UN Security Council. The source added that if this happens the Security Council resolution will probably be modified to make the UN emergency forces more capable of dealing with cease-fire violations.

ARMS REPORTEDLY CONTINUE TO FLOW SOUTH

NC2714457 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpts] Personnel manning the security roadblock at the northern entrance to Tyre have seized a truck carrying a rocket launcher belonging to a Palestinian organization. The truck was making its way to the south. A security source said today that arms caches have been discovered in the Az-Zahrani area and that the Palestinian organizations are using the groves and fields there to hide the modern weapons they have received from some Arab countries. Witnesses have observed foreign armed men and large quantities of weapons on the Tuffahta road. In addition, security reports say that the traffic of armed personnel and arms to the south has not yet ceased and that trucks transporting arms and military equipment were seen yesterday evening in the Zahlah region, heading south.

INA: SYRIAN FORCES TO BE SENT NEAR LITANI RIVER

JN272110Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2040 GMT 27 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 27 March--Diplomatic sources in Beirut have affirmed that secret contacts have taken place with Hafiz al-Asad's regime to send its forces to the northern banks of the Litani River with the aim of preventing the Arab fedayeen from continuing to deal their blows to the Zionist enemy, who is invading southern Lebanon.

This affirmation comes in the aftermath of the decisions made by the Syrian deterrent forces not to act against the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon and to prevent the military and food supplies from reaching the Lebanese territories which were the target of the Zionist invasion.

VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREIGNERS REPORTED

NC271132Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Text] The Directorate General of Public Security issued the following decision today: In view of the extraordinary circumstances through which the country is passing and in light of security and political developments, the following has been decided in coordination with the Foreign Ministry:

1. As of 10 April 1978 the Directorate General of Public Security will cease to issue visas at border posts of the public security to either Arab or foreign nationals arriving in Lebanon.

2. All Arab and foreign nationals will be subject to the principle of securing a visa issued by any Lebanese Consular Mission abroad prior to their entry into Lebanon.

3. Syrian nationals are exempted from this measure.

4. This decision is considered temporary, dictated by the current situation. It will remain in effect until further notice.

The Foreign Ministry will communicate this decision to Lebanese missions abroad and to foreign missions in Lebanon to be applied accordingly.

ARMY SETS REPORTING DEADLINE FOR PERSONNEL

NC281028Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Mar 78 NC

[Text] We have received the following from the army command fifth branch:

All military personnel of all ranks and all civilian employees of the army who still have not reported to their assigned posts are requested to report to the nearest military center to register on special individual forms prepared for this purpose. Any military person or civilian employee who does not comply by 15 April 1978 will be dismissed from the army immediately.

PALESTINIANS REPORTEDLY FIRE AT SWEDISH UNIFIL

NC261304Y Paris AFP in English 1258 GMT 26 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Metulla, Israel, March 26 (AFP)--Firing by Palestinian guerrillas entrenched in the crusaders' castle of Beaufort north of here has prevented the Swedish United Interim Force (UNIFIL) in southern Lebanon from occupying the Khardali Bridge on the Litani River, Israeli military correspondents said here today, quoting local Lebanese residents.

The 250 men of the Swedish force suffered no casualties but had to return to their base. Palestinian firing also kept them away from the bridge yesterday.

The Israelis also reported today that several Katyusha rockets were fired into northern Israel. No casualties or damage were reported.

Beirut Radio Denies Report

NC261721Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Mar 78 NC

[Text] A spokesman for the Swedish Defense Ministry has denied that the Swedish contingent of the United Nations interim force in the south has come under fire as was reported by Israeli sources.

Sources of the United Nations in Beirut have denied that the Swedish forces in the south came under fire when they were on their way to one of the positions in the south. These sources added that the Swedish forces came under crossfire [waqa'u fi majal itlaq nar] but that they suffered no casualties.

Voice of Lebanon Confirms Report

NC261741Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 26 Mar 78 NC

[Text] A UN spokesman has stated that a Swedish force operating as part of the UN forces came under fire in the Al-Khardali Bridge area while it was trying to dismantle mines planted on the road linking the districts of An-Nabatiyah and Marj 'Uyun. No one was hurt.

CLASHES REPORTED BETWEEN ISRAELIS, PALESTINIANS

NC271900Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in English to Lebanon 1830 GMT 27 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Reports from Palestinian sources say that armed elements have clashed with Israeli forces in various parts of south Lebanon. One Palestinian spokesman reported sporadic fighting over a wide area including the region around the port of Tyre. Other reports say that the two sides exchanged rocket and artillery fire throughout the night and in the morning.

There has been no confirmation of the reports either from the Israelis or from the UN forces. However, Israeli reports say that villagers in the extreme north of the country spent the night in air raid shelters because of rocket fire from Palestinian positions inside Lebanon.

AL-ASAD DESIGNATES AL-HALABI TO FORM NEW CABINET

JN271221Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--In accordance with the provisions of Article 122 of the constitution, President Hafiz al-Asad has charged Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi [speaker of the People's assembly] with the formation of a new cabinet. The president asked the current prime minister, Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi, to continue to run government affairs until the new cabinet is formed. The prime minister designate has begun his consultations to form the cabinet.

JNA: TRADE UNIONIST NOMINATED ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

JC271604Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1556 GMT 27 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 27 March--The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party regional command in Syria has nominated Mahmud Hadid, chairman of the General Federation of the Syrian Workers Trade Unions and People's Assembly member, to the post of speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly to succeed Speaker Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi, who has been designated to form the new Syrian cabinet.

JNA: HADDAD APPOINTED NEW AIR FORCE COMMANDER

JN271600Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1554 GMT 27 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 27 March--A decree was issued in Damascus today appointing Air Maj Gen Subhi Haddad as commander of the air force and air defense to succeed Maj Gen Naji Jamil, who has been relieved of all his posts.

OFFICIAL DENIES REPORTED BAN ON AID TO PALESTINIANS

JN270936Y Amman AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 Mar 78 p 1 JN

[Text] Amman--Commenting on the news carried by news agencies that the deterrent forces have banned the entrance of assistance to the [Palestinian] resistance, a responsible source at the Syrian Embassy in Amman has stated: We have no knowledge of such a decision. Such a decision falls within the jurisdiction of the president of the Lebanese republic and not that of the Arab deterrent forces.

He further added: Syria will continue to allow passage of all assistance to the resistance, whether such assistance is of a humanitarian or military nature, in implementing Syria's decision, which was declared by President Hafiz al-Asad in his speech on 18 March, particularly since the issue pertains to the struggle against Israel, the forces of which are still occupying Lebanese territories.

LEBANESE, PALESTINIAN REFUGEES TO RECEIVE FOOD

JN260547Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2315 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The Syrian Government has decided to offer foodstuffs to the Lebanese and Palestinian brothers who were forced to leave their homes by the treacherous Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon. The aid includes 10,000 tons of wheat and 1,500 tons of lentils. Of these, the Palestinian brothers will get 3,000 tons of wheat and 500 tons of lentils.

The Lebanese Government and the PLO were informed of the decision tonight.

AL-ASAD MEETS WITH GOVERNORS, PARTY BRANCH SECRETARIES

JN271824Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 27 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--At 1330 today His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received the comrade secretaries of the party branches and the governors of the provinces of the country. Assistant Secretary General of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command Comrade Muhammad Jabir Bajbuj and Chairman of the Organization Bureau of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command Comrade Ahmad al-Hasan attended.

President al-Asad discussed the affairs of the provinces and the progress of local government with them. The president heard the remarks and opinions of the secretaries of the branches and the governors and gave them his instructions.

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR LISBON PARLIAMENTARY MEETING

JN250935Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 25 Mar 78 JN

[Text] A People's Assembly delegation headed by Dr Muhsin Bilal, chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee in the People's Assembly, left Damascus for Lisbon early this morning to participate in the meetings of the International Parliamentary Union which will be held in the Portuguese capital between 27 March and 1 April.

The SANA correspondent has learned that the Syrian delegation will submit a proposal to include the topic of the Middle East on the conference agenda. It will also raise the subject of the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon.

MSZMP DELEGATION ENDS TALKS WITH BA'TH PARTY

LD241158Y Budapest MTI in English 1017 GMT 24 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Budapest, March 33 (MTI)--MTI's special correspondent reports from Damascus:

Official talks ended Thursday evening in Damascus between the delegations of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party and the Syrian Ba'th Party. At the end of the negotiations, Jeno Fock, member of the HSWP political committee and head of the delegation, and Dr. Favaz Sajagh, member of the national executive of the Syrian Ba'th Party and foreign secretary, signed the 1978-79 cooperation work-plan of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party and the Syrian Ba'th Party. A joint communique is to be issued on the talks.

AMBASSADOR GIVES AL-ASAD LETTER FROM TITO

JN281323Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 28 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--President Hafiz al-Asad has received a letter from Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito within the framework of contacts and consultations between the two presidents. The letter was conveyed by the Yugoslav Ambassador in Damascus.

ALGERIA

BOUMEDIENE CONGRATULATES AL-QADHDHAFI ON ANNIVERSARY

LD271300Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] President Boumediene has sent a message of congratulations to Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the occasion of the anniversary of the evacuation of the Libyan Jamahiriyah's territory by foreign forces. President Boumediene stresses in his message to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi:

The heroic struggle that the progressive forces are leading in the Arab world today proves the Arab nation's adherence to its principles and demonstrates it will to defend its revolutionary gains for the attainment of its national objectives. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, member of the Council of the Revolution and minister of foreign affairs, has sent a similar message to his Libyan counterpart.

ASH-SHA'B SPECULATES ON CARTER-BEGIN DIFFERENCES

LD251204Y Algiers APS in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Algiers--The Arabic-language paper ASH-SHA'B this morning comments on the substantial differences between the United States and Israel in an article entitled "Another Maneuver," which says:

"It is difficult to believe the American-Israeli story about the failure of the Carter-Begin meeting concerning the future of the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations and the scale of the concessions expected from Tel Aviv to push these negotiations another step forward. This is because 30 years of the Zionist presence in occupied Palestine has proven that Israel does not have an independent policy but is merely an instrument to carry out the strategy planned for it in Washington, which has as its first and last aim domination of the Arab homeland--both the Magrrib and Mashriq--and the plundering of its resources. This reality, which prevents Israel from displaying opposition to the big master, leads us to believe that substantial differences between Washington and Tel Aviv are unlikely.

"How then can we explain the pessimistic statements by Carter and Begin? There are several explanations:

"A. The new situation is just another maneuver in the series to prepare the climate for imposing an imperialist settlement to the Arab problem, the price of which would be the liquidation of the Palestinian question by dispersing the Palestinians to foreign entities and diluting their unity. In order to not embarrass its friends by showing the blatant American bias, Washington began to play the tune of its failure to persuade Begin to show some flexibility toward As-Sadat's initiative. This is aimed at giving the impression that Washington is an honest, trustworthy judge biased only for justice. In this way the Arabs could be induced to offer Israel new concessions that would take the form of deleting the name of Palestine from the map and replacing it with the name Israel. On this point both Carter and Begin agree: There shall be no independent Palestinian state in Palestine.

"B. The deepening of the differences between the United States and Israel over the future of the West Bank and Israeli settlements in Sinai is aimed at diverting attention from the essence of the Arab-Zionist conflict to marginal issues.

It is clear here that the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon falls within the context of this aim, which seeks to gloss over the Palestine question and fragment the attention of Arab and world public opinion by creating new issues, such as southern Lebanon, the Zionist settlements in Sinai, the West Bank and Gaza, and Golan Heights and so forth. In this way the core would be lost, leaving just the outer skin.

"C. Imperialism wishes to exploit the state of disintegration in the Arab ranks caused by President as-Sadat in order to secure the maximum Arab concessions, culminating in the recognition of Israel, the normalizing of Arab relations with it and the closing once and for all of the file on the Palestinian question.

"From the foregoing it may be concluded that what happened in Washington was a new step in entrenching an imperialist settlement in the Arab region. If Washington were really sincere in its quest for a just peace, it would have been sufficient for the United States to issue orders to Tel Aviv to behave itself so that everything would change, because the United States possesses enough means of pressure that could make Israel succumb to its will.

"Now that the cards of the game have been exposed and Tel Aviv has reduced As-Sadat's initiative to its true size, the question is: What will the Egyptian regime do? Will it invoke Israel's hard line as a reason for dropping its demand for insuring the rights of the Palestinian people as a price for regaining the Sinai, even in a disfigured form? Or will the stray child return to the right road now that the failure of his experiment is certain? However, the 4 months which have passed since As-Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem have confirmed the (?charge) that Israel is an aggressive expansionist state that does not want peace but wants to seize territory, and that if it had to choose between peace and territory it would opt for the latter."

MOROCCO

OFFICIALS DISCUSS BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH SOVIETS

LD272202Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Abderrahmane Baddou, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, this afternoon received the head of the African Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry. They discussed the development of Moroccan-Soviet relations following the visit paid to the Soviet Union by the Prime Minister Ahmed Osman. They also discussed the general situation in Africa. This meeting was also attended by the Soviet ambassador in Rabat and by the head of the Department of Europe and America at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

SUDAN

SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY INTERVIEWS PRESIDENT NUMAYRI

LD272114Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Mar 78 LD/EA

[First of an unspecified number of installments of report on interview granted by Sudanese President Numayri to SUNA]

[Summary] President Numayri has given an interview to SUNA on domestic and foreign affairs issues. The agency put questions to President Numayri on national reconciliation, the living conditions of the citizens, the invitation to national capital to invest in the southern region, the African summit conference to be held in Khartoum in July this year and the financing of the 6-year plan.

The president also spoke about Sudan's role in support of the African liberation movements, the dangers of foreign interference in Africa, the expected meeting between the Ethiopian leadership and the leadership of the Eritrean revolution in Khartoum, and his efforts to improve relations between Libya and Egypt and between Egypt and Syria.

"The first question was on the subject of national reconciliation and the absorption of the returning brothers [words indistinct]. His excellency said: Support for national unity and national reconciliation and the recent strengthening of both has come about as the result of a call for it by Sudanese living abroad. As we know, the first to make this call was As-Sadiq al-Mahdi. This happened in my meeting with him in Port Sudan." As a result of this, large numbers of Sudanese returned to Sudan.

"I personally believe that everything proceeded as expected and according to the plan laid down. Naturally, moves in matters such as these cannot be publicized at all times and every day. There are many subjects of which citizens are unaware and this is to avoid them being made subjects of analysis, [word indistinct] and arguments. [words indistinct] The various questions and queries that are being made about them [words indistinct] there are no pressures from any direction, be it internal or external. The initiative, as I have said before the Central Committee, was a Sudanese one without the intervention of anyone else."

The president then went on to elaborate on what the May revolution stood for and said that its ideas are not fossilized but progressive and capable of changing.

"On the gap that the citizen feels exists between the [word indistinct] political leadership and what the citizens face in the way of problems, his excellency said: I do not agree with you that there is a gap between what the revolution (?provides) and what the citizens are facing. [passage indistinct] What the revolution (?achieves) is a complementary part for the citizens. [words indistinct] Sudan would not have held together in a strong unity." [passage indistinct]

"As to the difficulties facing the citizens [word indistinct] concerning (?commodities) and supply, these are transient problems. These are problems of development which require from the citizen [word indistinct] and from Sudanese society [words indistinct]. If we take a serious look at the supply of commodities and housing in Sudan, we find that there is no real problem, because housing is available for everyone and because consumer goods are available even in excess of every person's needs inside Sudan. Perhaps their availability in the right place at the right time is the problem. Sudan now produces, Allah be praised, more than three-quarters of the wheat it needs. [words indistinct] Sudan now produces two-thirds of the sugar it needs. We now have a surplus in [word indistinct] and in all types of vegetables [words indistinct].

"We will continue the leader-president's interview in our coming news bulletings."

WEIZMAN WARNS: SHELLING IN NORTH 'CANNOT GO ON'

TA271302Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 27 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman asked the heads of local councils in the north to remain patient for another 48 hours in the hope that the shelling and Katyushas from southern Lebanon would cease. We have warned all the forces in the sector--the UN, the terrorists and also the Syrians--that the shelling cannot go on, the defense minister said.

'Ezer Weizman estimates that the French force in Tyre will have the situation in that sector under control, and he is aware of the fact that the terrorists are firing from the Beaufort fortress at the finger of the Galilee. If the UN is unable to master the situation, Weizman said, the IDF will be forced to take matters in hand. The UN force commander, General Siilasvuo, is making efforts in the right direction. Meanwhile, until the UN is deployed along the Litani River, the IDF is not budging from the positions it reached last Tuesday, when it declared a unilateral cease-fire.

The defense minister praised the behavior of the residents of settlements in the north and promised to respond positively to requests they have submitted to him.

In reply to a question by an ITIM correspondent, he said that the rumors that he is departing for Egypt on Saturday are groundless. I am going home to my wife and family, 'Ezer Weizman said.

DEFENSE BUDGET ENDORSED, COST OF LEBANON CAMPAIGN GIVEN

TA271758Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The Knesset committee dealing with the defense budget endorsed in full the defense budget for 1978. In the debate held in the committee today it was reported that it is assessed that the IDF operation in southern Lebanon has so far cost 450 million Israeli pounds. However, it was decided not to increase the defense budget for the time being. This will be done only after the IDF operation in southern Lebanon ends, if it then becomes clear that an increase is needed.

NEW 'DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES' WITH EGYPT OUTLINED

TA271633Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 27 Mar 78 TA

[Text] During the prime minister's visit in Washington Israel submitted an updated version for a joint Israeli-Egyptian declaration of principles. Our political correspondent Shalom Qital says that this version had already been worked out during Alfred Atherton's visit in Israel but the U.S. administration did not accept it because, according to the administration, Egypt will not accept it.

There are five clauses in the updated version of the declaration of principles. The first clause states that the Israeli and Egyptian governments are determined to continue the efforts aimed at achieving a comprehensive peace settlement. The second clause says that in the framework of a settlement and according to UN Security Council Resolution 338, the two governments express their desire to negotiate peace treaties and to realize all the principles of Resolution 242. This resolution will constitute a basis for the negotiations between Israel and all the neighboring countries. The third clause states that on the basis of Resolution 242 the IDF will withdraw from conquered areas and safe and recognized borders will be determined. Every state will live in peace along these borders and will be free from threats and the use of force.

The fourth clause states that a just solution will be found for the problem of the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el. The Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip will have the right to participate in the determination of their future in the talks to be held between Israel, Egypt, Jordan and representatives of the Arab residents in these regions. According to the fifth clause, all demands and states of war will be canceled and the sovereignty, integrity of borders and political independence of each state in the region will be recognized. Upon the achievement of the peace agreements, normal peace relations, according to the principles of the UN Charter, will be established. This is the updated version of the declaration of principles proposed by Israel.

REVISED DRAFT DECLARATION TO BE SENT TO EGYPT

TA280730Y Jerusalem POST in English 28 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[Excerpts] Israel is planning to send directly to Egypt a revised version of a draft "declaration of principles" for a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement, but it will not budge on its demand for negotiated secure and recognized borders, a reliable source in Jerusalem said last night.

Furthermore the source said Israel will not roll back on its settlement policy or alter its self-rule offer to the Palestinian Arabs in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza District. The source noted, however, that Israel is making progress in exploring the possibility of reviving direct communication with Egypt while making clear its "unshakable" stance.

Cairo radio yesterday gave prominence to Jerusalem reports about Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman's planned mission to Egypt, but the radio made no comment on the matter.

Sources close to Weizman were tight-lipped yesterday when asked about Weizman's trip, saying only that premature discussion could only harm the issues at stake. Weizman himself yesterday emphatically denied that he was slated to leave for Cairo soon.

A visit to Egypt by Weizman is considered here to be the best way of getting the Israel-Egyptian dialogue going again--and thus of countering some of the U.S. pressure on Israel at this time.

The Jerusalem sources would not discuss the new revisions which Israel planned, with the aim of regenerating the peace deliberations with Egypt. They insisted that "doors remain open for new Israeli initiatives" for advancing the negotiations between Cairo and Jerusalem.

YADIN COMMENTS ON NEW DECLARATION PROPOSALS

TA271718Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 27 Mar 78 TA

[From the Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] We will start with the contacts aimed at renewing the negotiations between Israel and Egypt. Israel submitted to the United States a proposal for the declaration of principles which notes that the negotiations between Israel and all its neighbors will be conducted on the basis of all the principles of Resolution 242. The meaning of this proposal is that Israel is ready to discuss the withdrawal of military forces on all fronts. These facts and their interpretation were raised by Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin at a political discussion held by the DMC faction in the afternoon. Our political correspondent Yosi La'or reports: [begin recording]

President Carter rejected the Israeli declaration of principles. It was emphasized in the DMC Knesset faction this afternoon that the declaration submitted to Washington with the approach of Begin's visit is more moderate than the previous versions. Clause two of the declaration is worded as follows: According to UN Security Council Resolution 338, the two governments express their readiness to negotiate peace treaties fulfilling all the principles of Resolution 242 which serves as a basis for the negotiations between Israel and all the states. Professor Yadin emphasized the wording: all the states, which implies that Israel agrees that the resolution also applies to the Jordanian front. The principles of the resolution are mentioned in the third clause in the Israeli proposal, among which is the withdrawal of armed forces from areas taken in 1967. Yadin's interpretation: The government agreed to discuss a withdrawal on the eastern front as well. It is worth noting that other interpretations can be found for the version as set out here in full--less far-reaching interpretations. According to the wording of the Israeli proposal there is no basis for Carter's claims that Israel reveals inflexibility regarding Resolution 242.

It was said in Jerusalem today that Carter wants to sharpen the differences between Israel and the United States in public. The real argument between the two states revolves around the U.S. proposal for a public referendum in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip and around the settlements in the Sinai. Governmental sources also remarked that the wording of the cabinet decision of yesterday was even more moderate than the prime minister's proposal. These sources believe that if Israel and Egypt find themselves on the threshold of a separate settlement, the government will have to reconsider its position about the settlements in the Sinai. In view of the Israeli moderation, as defined in the capital today, it is to be assumed that the Egyptians will want to have direct contact with Israel. Defense Minister Weizman maintains contacts with his Egyptian colleague, Al-Jamasi, and it was assumed in Jerusalem in the afternoon that Weizman will be leaving for Cairo before long. [end recording]

U.S. NOT WANTED TO DELIVER BEGIN REPLY TO AS-SADAT

TA272047Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The reason for postponing the political debate in the Knesset to Wednesday, 29 March, is that the prime minister apparently wants his letter of reply to President as-Sadat to be handed to the Egyptians before the debate. The letter apparently includes the proposal of the Israeli Government that direct negotiations between the two countries be renewed. The government wants the letter to be handed to Egypt not through the United States but directly by an emissary from Israel or via one of the Israeli embassies abroad that will hand the letter to the Egyptian ambassador in that particular country.

DAYAN URGES RESUMPTION OF DIRECT TALKS WITH EGYPT

TA280735Y Jerusalem POST in English 28 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan said last night that Israel is prepared to renew direct and free negotiations with Egypt immediately. This is the only way a settlement can be achieved in the area, he said.

Speaking at the Israel museum to a group of American industrial leaders visiting the Middle East on a fact-finding tour organized by "TIME" magazine, Dayan said that Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat's attempt to get the U.S. to pressure Israel into making concessions would not lead to negotiations, and any peace that were to result from such pressure would not be a true peace.

Asked if he would be prepared to negotiate with the Palestinians, Dayan said "yes"--provided they were not connected with the Palestinian Liberation Organization. He mentioned the name of East Jerusalem lawyer Anwar (Nusayba) as a representative of the Palestinian Arabs who would be "acceptable" to Israel, should he be prepared to assume the role.

Dayan said that the question of a settlement in the Golan Heights did not arise, as Syria was not interested in peace with Israel. Should Syria ever express a willingness to live in peace, Israel would be prepared to negotiate with it on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 242.

ALINEMENT NOT TO SEEK VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE

TA272229Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2145 GMT 27 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The Alinement faction decided this evening not to ask for a vote of no confidence in the government in the wake of the prime minister's visit to Washington. The head of the Labor Party, MK Shim'on Peres, proposed to his colleagues that the Alinement faction submit a resolution for adoption at the conclusion of the Knesset political debate to be held on Wednesday. The main point of the resolution is to emphasize that UN Resolution 242 applies to all fronts. MK Peres also said that the Alinement members will vote against the resolution to be submitted by the government.

BRZEZINSKI CITED AS WANTING BEGIN REPLACED

TA271205Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[Excerpt] The source of the report according to which "a senior U.S. personality told a senior Israeli personality that the prime minister should be replaced" was a confidante of Moshe Dayan.

Internal clarifications sought by the director general of the broadcasting authority, Yizhaq Livni, with respect to this report showed that it was made by a confidant of the foreign minister who is known for his reliability--and thus it was broadcast.

The issue was raised yesterday at the cabinet meeting and Education Minister Zevulun Hammer defended the broadcasting authority, saying that the report was broadcast in accordance with the criteria and examinations required to authenticate the report.

The DAVAR correspondent has learned that, according to the remarks made to the broadcasting authority correspondent, the hints about this [desire for Begin's replacement] came from President Carter's adviser for national security affairs, Zbigniew Brzezinski, in a conversation with the Minister Dayan.

DAVAR Report Denied

TA271206Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Mar 78 pp 1, 8 TA

[By Arye Zimmuqi and Nahum Sharvit]

[Excerpt] Who stands behind the report on the "senior U.S. personality" who hinted, as it were, to "a senior Israeli personality" that it would be desirable to replace Begin?

The report, which was carried on Israel broadcasting last Thursday, caused a storm and was severely condemned at yesterday's cabinet meeting.

In reaction to the criticism leveled against Israel broadcasting about the manner in which the report was published, the director general of the authority, Yizhaq Livni, sought clarifications about its authenticity and source.

This morning Mr Livni stated that his clarifications showed that the report was accurate. At the same time, he refused to divulge the source. He denied a report published this morning in DAVAR according to which the report came from a source close to the foreign minister.

It was also said in DAVAR that this referred to remarks made by Presidential Adviser Brzezinski to Foreign Minister Dayan.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman strongly denied this report and called it a fallacy.

The possibility was raised that the source of the report lay in briefings given to U.S. journalists a week before Begin's visit. At these briefings it was hinted that it would be difficult to achieve a dialog with Begin, who has been manifesting an inflexible position. Remarks of this nature were also made in a conversation that took place between a U.S. diplomat and one of the leaders of the Labor Party.

HARIF: ANY CABINET WOULD REJECT CARTER PEACE PLAN

TA241550Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Mar 78 p 15 TA

[Yosef Harif commentary]

[Excerpts] Before Prime Minister Menahem Begin left for the United States for talks with President Carter, a U.S. personality held a conversation with him in preparation for this important visit. As is customary in such conversations, the attempt is made to reduce, as much as possible, the disagreements beforehand, so as to prevent friction during the talks.

It is reasonable to assume that many substantive arguments were raised during that talk, but among others there was also this argument: The President's difficult situation must be understood....

It seems that in this expression lies the clue to understanding many "mysteries" in the U.S.-Israel dialog. As concerns the United States, the taking of a certain position on the Middle East issue in all its complexity grows out of calculations intended to bring foreign policy dividends, or sometimes also out of the need to strengthen the President's status in other fields--including questions of unemployment, the fall in the value of the dollar, energy problems, and so on. Regarding Israel--the reference is literally to a question of existence.

All of a sudden, with the end of the talks in Washington, an atmosphere of unease prevails: "Hard talks," "a crisis," "a possible rift," "confrontation." Various people in the administration in Washington as well, and perhaps primarily such people, are trying to describe the results of the visit with the use of such terms. Was it really possible to expect any other results? What did they expect in the United States, that the U.S. peace plan--about which former Prime Minister Golda Meir has already said that any Israeli Government that would accept it would be committing treason--would be accepted by Menahem Begin?

At first glance one can observe some similarity between Carter's plan and Begin's plan. Like the Israeli plan, Carter also talks about an autonomy plan to exist for 5 years; but with that, apparently, the similarity ends.

What Carter proposes is that at the end of 5 years a referendum be held to determine the future of all West Bank and Gaza Strip areas. As far as is known, this subject of the referendum was at the center of the talks in Washington this time.

The Carter plan apparently contains no reference to the possibility of a Palestinian state. The inhabitants of the Bank and the Strip will be able to choose one of three possibilities: To be part of Israel; to be part of Jordan; or to continue self-rule in accordance with the Israeli autonomy plan.

Carter stressed that there will not be a fourth alternative--in order to illustrate that there is no reference to an independent Palestinian state. Moreover, the West Bank will be demilitarized--and not only during the 5 years.

But a close examination of the Carter plan reveals its operational details, and it then becomes clear that there is only delusion here.

Indeed, Carter accepted the Israeli plan as a basis for negotiations, but on that basis he built a completely different edifice.

The Begin plan says that its principles "will be subject to reassessment after a period of 5 years."

The Carter plan does not refer to a reassessment, but rather as is known, a referendum, and Egypt also agrees with that.

Begin's plan talks about security and public order being in the hands of the Israeli authorities "in theory and in practice." Begin added: "Let it be widely known that anyone who wants an agreement with us should be so good as to accept our statement that the IDF will be stationed in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza--and there will also be other security arrangements...."

Carter's plan tries to limit the number of military bases even during the 5-year interim period, and the President talks about cantonment as he defines it, which in reality means presence in military bases "outside town"--in other words, the IDF will remain in its bases but will not be seen in the area.

Begin's plan talks of the right of the citizens of Israel to buy land and settle in the Judaea, Samaria and Gaza region areas. That means that Jews will be able to set up settlements.

Carter's plan talks of limiting the Jewish settlement to the minimum and only for security reasons--if along the Jordan River or on hills that have a strategic value; but even such "settlement" should be in the nature of the Nahal [pioneering fighting youth]. In other words, the settlers should be soldiers, within the framework of military camps.

In due time, when the territories will, in the wake of a referendum, be removed from under Israeli rule--as the U.S. administration is convinced it will be--Carter agrees that Israel will be entitled to light border modifications. In any case, Israel will have to negotiate over it with King Husayn.

What Carter actually proposes is not that the Israeli-Jordanian negotiations begin at the end of 5 years, but that they be held within the 5-year period. Negotiations with Jordan would have to take place, for example, among other things, concerning which of the Palestinians now living outside the West Bank would be allowed to "immigrate," what the immigration quotas would be, who would be permitted to buy land in the West Bank, and still more such questions.

This, exactly, is a manifestation of the "bluff" that is hidden in the national referendum idea. Washington is striving toward an Israeli withdrawal and toward making the West Bank and the Gaza Strip into a Palestinian "homeland" to be integrated with Jordan; that is to say, in order to make the plan palatable even to the palate of the more extremist Palestinians, one talks about an almost-independent entity that would be integrated ("affiliated" in the original) with Jordan and not necessarily a part of it. Is there any doubt that a nucleus of a Palestinian state is being referred to, which, in the future--when the PLO gets hold of it--will leave neither Israel nor Jordan in peace? Is it any wonder that the talks in Washington "failed" due to Begin's "intransigence?"

The main question is not whether this cabinet is intransigent but rather, whether Carter would be willing to accept the Alinement's peace plan.

Each of Carter's "proximity points" seems to indicate clearly that the answer is negative.

Before the prime minister came to the United States, everyone was speaking of the fatefulness of the visit and of the possibility of heavy pressure being exerted by the U.S. President. Mr Carter was quoted as having said: "Begin is a very strong man and independent. I have no wish to exert pressure on him. I have no wish to do so, nor could I, even if I wished."

In this, Carter was right. A peace plan, such as proposed by him, would be rejected by any prime minister, even by a less aggressive one than Begin.

YADIN, EHRLICH, SHOSTAK COMMENT ON BEGIN'S U.S. TRIP

TA241833Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Mar 78 TA

[From the Weekly Newsreel]

[Excerpts] How do cabinet members evaluate the political situation that has been generated with the return of the prime minister from his talks with the U.S. President? Our correspondent Sara Frankel reports: [begin recording]

[Frankel] Professor Yadin, you've certainly received a report from the prime minister as to what is happening. Do you think that the situation generated so far is a dead-end situation?

[Yadin] I think there is definitely a basis, in my humble view, for continuing the negotiations. I think that we must strive now for a resumption of the negotiations in one way or another--with the Egyptians in the first place. Instead of hearing from other places what precisely the Egyptians want, it is desirable to hear this from the Egyptians in order to present the positions. I think that the gap is much smaller than it looks. There is certainly a gap, which has also been acknowledged. These, however, are negotiations and in negotiations one has to proceed from point to point. There are here, undoubtedly, as the prime minister noted, difficult talks with the United States, and things like that. Ultimately, however, our negotiations are not only with the United States but first of all also with Arab countries and with Egypt in the first place. I think an attempt has to be made, after we have heard the entire report, to examine the possibilities for a resumption of the negotiations, for a clarification of the issues. I think the situation is not pleasant, in view of what the talks in the United States have been like, and this was stated both by the president and by Mr Begin. I definitely think that there is a basis for continuing the negotiations.

[Frankel] In press interviews today 'Ezer Weizman is saying that the cabinet did not do enough. Do you support this view?

[Yadin] This is, naturally, a matter of evaluation. At that or another point, at one or another time, this or another action could, perhaps, have been taken. What is more important in my view is the situation from this point on.

In my humble opinion, every endeavor should be made to return the situation to a state where the talks will be chiefly between us and Egypt. Naturally, the assistance of the United States is always desirable. In this respect, no effort should be spared in order to reach such a situation. If the situation indeed reaches such a state, then we shall know more precisely where matters between us and Egypt stand, and not only hear about it from the third party, even though it entered the picture with the agreement of both sides.

[Frankel] You said that in this or that matter a little more could have been done. The question is whether in the basic and principle issues you think that more could be achieved?

[Yadin] This is, of course, a matter of various, different opinions. As is known, my basic views do not happen to coincide with the Likud position on one central point or, rather, on two points. One point is the issue of settlements. My view is altogether against the establishment in Judaea and Samaria of settlements that are devoid of security meaning. But I am also of the opinion that during the negotiations it is desirable not to go on with these settlements. This would certainly help the atmosphere.

The second problem is this: We gave full support to the peace plan as it was proposed by the prime minister, regarding the autonomy [for the West Bank and Gaza], but at the same time we did not change our basic positions that after that agreed-upon period one has to strive to arrive at a solution to be based on a plan as is deemed proper by us.

[Frankel] Professor Yadin, let us start with the assumption that those positions of yours would be accepted by the cabinet. Do you think that in that case the road is paved and the problems have been solved.

[Yadin] I don't at all think that the problems have been solved but, possibly, the efforts, I would say, for coming to terms with Egypt would be directed into more propitious channels at this stage. If several of our positions are examined and if an effort is made, I think there will be a prospect--in any case I am sure that there is a basis--for continuing the negotiations.

[Frankel] What do you think of the reports regarding what an anonymous U.S. personality said to an anonymous Israeli personality to the effect that the prime minister should be replaced?

[Yadin] I flatly reject generally, and also in this particular case, all kinds of reports in the name of an anonymous personality to an anonymous personality. It is impossible to know who said what, and so forth. If there is such a personality, he should have had the guts to say it openly. Generally, however, I think that outside interference in the internal affairs of the State of Israel is intolerable, and the considerations of the nation and of the Knesset and so forth should be their own considerations as they are understood by them. Any outside intervention causes, in my view, only tensions liable to achieve the opposite results. [end recording]

[Announcer] After the prime minister's plane landed at Ben-Gurion Airport, Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich and Health Minister Eli'ezer Shostak expressed their views: [begin recording]

[Frankel] Mr Minister, do you subscribe to the view that says that the Government of Israel did not sufficiently contribute to the continuing of the negotiations?

[Ehrlich] I think that no Israeli Government has done so much. We are doing the maximum. Naturally, there is no limit to the maximum. But so far, we have done the maximum that could be done, since the inception of the state, for the sake of peace. No earlier cabinet has done anything similar.

[Frankel] What do you think of the reports in the last 2 days regarding the possibility that the cabinet would be replaced, as it were, and that U.S. elements have, allegedly, had a hand in this?

[Ehrlich] This cabinet will be replaced during the scheduled time of elections for 10th Knesset, by the people--if the people decide differently. Until that time this cabinet will continue in office under Menahem Begin.

[Frankel] Do you see indications that the U.S. administration is dissatisfied with this regime, and if so, what are the reasons for it?

[Ehrlich] If the U.S. administration is not content with this regime, this strengthens in me my national pride.

[Frankel] Do you think that this cabinet's policy--as conducted so far--has been the correct policy?

[Ehrlich] In my view, yes.

[Frankel] Do you see a prospect for continuing the negotiations without U.S. participation?

[Ehrlich] I do not reject U.S. mediation. On the contrary, it is desirable, but not according to terms dicated to us. I definitely see a realistic prospect for a continuation of the negotiations, be they direct or indirect.

[Frankel] Minister Weizman called for the formation of a national peace government. What do you think of this?

[Ehrlich] I will speak about it with Minister Weizman in the cabinet, should it come up for a discussion. I think, however, that a peace cabinet exists and there is no need to establish one.

[Shostak] I have no doubt that the United States has spoiled As-Sadat. The fact that it did not tell him that he couldn't renege on his agreements that he had given earlier, but on the contrary, understood his tastes and ambitions, that has considerably contributed to his becoming intransigent and to his having reneged.

[Frankel] Do you see a possibility for what is termed an erosion inside the cabinet, in the wake of the recent debates and in the wake of the reports about the intervention of a U.S. element to bring about a change of regime in Israel?

[Shostak] I can see no erosion. I see a cabinet that is more united than ever before. I really regard, with considerable concern, only the position of our antipatriotic opposition.

When in the past there were--more than once--crises between the Government of Israel and the United States, the opposition then knew that the nation had to be united in the face of schemings against the State of Israel. From what is happening today I can see that only out of envy and from the fact that they lost power are they losing their balance and, instead of standing united in this struggle against the attacks from the outside, they are trying to exploit this opportunity, to damage the cabinet from inside. [end recording]

CORRESPONDENT DETAILS U.S. PROPOSALS REJECTED BY ISRAEL

NC2510252 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0805 GMT 25 Mar 78 NC

[From the second edition of the Weekly Newsreel--Correspondent Eli Nissan report on Secretary Vance's press conference and U.S. proposals to Israel--recorded]

[Excerpt] Secretary of State Vance pointed out at his press conference that several proposals were made to Prime Minister Menahem Begin during his talks in Washington but that Begin rejected all of them. The proposals submitted to Mr Begin were not disclosed by the U.S. secretary of state, but it is understood from various sources that the proposals were thefollowing: Israel will undertake to remove the settlements in Sinai or will agree to maintain them under Egyptian sovereignty and administration. No new settlements will be established in the administerd territories, at least as long as the negotiations continue. Israel will announce its acceptance of Security Council Resolution 242 with all its clauses, including the principle of withdrawal from all the sectors. There will be self-rule in Judaea and Samaria for a period of 5 years, after which a referendum will be held according to the formula that says the Palestinians are entitled to take part in deciding their political future. Only two questions will be posed to the residents in this referendum: Do they prefer an economic, political and administrative link with Jordan? Or, do they prefer this with Israel? The question of the establishment of an independent Palestinian state will not be decided in the referendum. This proposal, like the other proposals, was also rejected by Mr Begin.

The Israeli argument is that such a referendum cannot be conducted under the conditions of a free election, since the extremists will dictate their will. In addition to this, there would be no way to prevent the participants in the referendum from abstaining or putting in ballots demanding the establishment of an independent state. The results of such a referendum would be likely to eventually grant legitimacy to the PLO and its functionaries.

Another proposal which was mentioned here was that Israel will be allowed to station military forces in key strategic points along the Jordan Valley. However, the United States turned down a suggestion that Israel be the one solely responsible for internal security in Judaea and Samaria.

The U.S. secretary of state stressed that the proposals presented to the prime minister will now be brought to the Egyptian Government for its consideration with an explicit remark that they were rejected by Israel.

Observers here see in this point an opening for the deepening of the controversy between Israel and the United States, because if these proposals or part of them are accepted by Egypt, the situation will become more complicated.

HOROWITZ BELIEVES U.S. PRESSURE WILL UNITE ISRAEL

TA240930Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Minister Yig'al Horowitz has said that U.S. pressure will bring about a unity among the people and not the opposite. Speaking at an internal consultation in the La'am Party, Minister Horowitz said that no one is more reassuring to face this pressure than Menahem Begin and, at his side, Moshe Dayan. Therefore, the government should be strengthened from within. Whoever tries to weaken it is, in fact, paving the way for a withdrawal to the 1967 borders--something that could bring about a disaster to the state and to all Jewish people.

MK QUESTIONS ESTABLISHMENT OF SINAI SETTLEMENT SITES

TA262227Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Mar 78 TA

[Text] MK Dani Rosolio from the Alinement today submitted questions to the ministers of agriculture and defense regarding the establishment of six settlement sites in the center of Sinai. The reason for their establishment is not clear and their precise location has to date not been published. The reference is to sites established by a Tel Aviv contractor on the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture. MK Rosolio wants to know who authorized the establishment of these sites and who is financing them. Details about the sites in Sinai, their location and how they were erected were learned by our correspondent on settlement affairs, Yig'al Goren. [begin videotape]

The six sites were established last month in the center of Sinai. According to documents I am holding, included in these sites are trailers, plowing work on a total of about 500 dunams, excavating work and road improvement totaling about 6 km. The work was done by the Landsman Company, a contractor from Tel Aviv, on the orders of the Ministry of Agriculture at a cost of about 2 million Israeli pounds. Official elements could not explain to us today the reason for this work in the heart of Sinai, or who authorized it.

The six sites are in the Nahal (Haridin) area southeast of Al 'Arish, in (Umm Khatef), (Jabal Libni), (Jabal Bahraqat), (Jabal Matmani) and (Jabal Kharim), which is about 100 km south of Al 'Arish. There are no people living in any of them; in fact they are deserted. Unlike the other footholds established in the Yamit district by the Settlement Division, the sites in the center of the Sinai were established by a private company on the orders of the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture asked the Settlement Division to finance the Landsman Company's expenses. The Settlement Division agreed in principle, but the condition for this was that its personnel should check the work first and see whether it met the accepted standards. The Settlement Division then asked the Landsman Company to organize a tour of the work sites. However, the company replied that it had no suitable transport nor was there any possibility of coordinating the visit with the IDF. The Ministry of Agriculture also reported that it was unable to organize the visit. To date the Settlement Division has not been able to find out what is really going on in the footholds, nor can its staff reach the spot, because the whole area is suspected of being mined.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Finance is asking the Knesset Finance Committee to authorize a special budget for the Ministry of Agriculture of 20 million pounds to finance the expenses of all the footholds, including the sites in the center of Sinai. The paper attached to the request does not detail what work has been carried out in the center of the Sinai about 100 km south of Al 'Arish. [end videotape]

CABINET SAID TO HAVE APPROVED WORK AT SINAI SITES

TA272012Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Mar 78 TA

[Text] In reaction to a report on the television newsreel yesterday regarding the establishment of six sites in the Sinai, the spokesman of the Agriculture Ministry announced today that the activity was approved and carried out according to the government's decision taken in December concerning land preparation and water drilling activities in the Rafah approaches and Qidmat Sinai. All these activities were completed 2 months ago.

70 PERCENT OF POPULATION PREFER PEACE TO SETTLEMENTS

TA241055Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Of the Israeli population, 69.8 percent believe that peace now, in safe and recognized borders, is preferable to "our historic right" to settle in all the parts of the country. This is in contrast to only 13 percent who prefer the "historic right" to peace. This was concluded on the basis of a public poll carried out this week by the Pori Institute.

Similarly, 60.9 percent of those questioned think that the government's policy on the subject of settlement has damaged Israel's position in the world, while only 8.7 percent think the government's policy has helped.

Also, 59.8 percent of the Israeli public hold the opinion that setting up new settlements during the negotiations with Egypt is not justified, against 21.6 percent who think it is.

SEARCH FOR OIL IN GULF OF SUEZ TO BE EXPANDED

TA271842Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The search for oil will soon be conducted in other regions of the Gulf of Suez--in areas other than the site of the 'Alma oilfield. This was disclosed by Energy Minister Yizhaq Moda'i in a talk with our correspondent Yosi Melman.

Our correspondent says that the U.S. company drilling in the 'Alma oilfield has a concession to look for oil in the entire region, extending from Sharm ash-Shaykh to north of At Tur, all this west of the middle line of the Gulf of Suez.

Minister Moda'i talked with our correspondent while he toured the offshore production facilities of the 'Alma oilfield where oil production began today. About 10,000 barrels per day are being produced in the first stage. It is said that within a year and a half it will be possible to produce up to 70,000 barrels per day, about half of Israel's oil consumption.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS POSTPONED TO 19 APRIL

TA262125Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The Knesset presidency has decided to postpone the election for president of the state by 2 weeks. The election will be held on 19 April.

AFGHANISTAN

DAUD TO MAKE OFFICIAL VISIT TO ARAB STATES

LD281200Y Kabul in English to Europe 1130 GMT 28 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The office of the president reports that Mr Mohammad Daud, the president, is expected to pay an official and friendly visit to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Egypt next week, at the invitation of His Majesty King Khalid Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait and Mr Anwar as-Sadat, the Egyptian president.

BANGLADESH

637 PRISONERS RELEASED ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

BK260930Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 26 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The government has ordered the immediate release of 637 prisoners from different jails of the country on the eve of the independence day. They include 336 political detainees.

INDIA

ISI CITES DEFENSE MINISTRY'S ANNUAL REPORT

BK271513Y Delhi ISI in English 1444 GMT 27 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Despite India's efforts at consolidation of the forces of peace and constructive operation in relations with neighbors there is little change in the security environment as the sources of tension and causes of conflict have not been satisfactorily resolved and the "threat to our security continues," according to the annual report of the Ministry of Defence.

The report records that Pakistan, which has procured military hardware during the year from various sources, is still looking for more sophisticated arms during the year under review. This cannot but be a matter of concern to India, the report says. It refers to the fact that in the previous year also it had been noted that Pakistan had made impressive additions to the pre-1971 level of strength in her armed forces by that time, both quantitatively and qualitatively.

Referring to the border with Pakistan, the report says that the situation remained peaceful except for a few local incidents of firing by Pakistani troops, civilian intrusions across the line of control and the violations of our air space. The system of referring these issues to the flag meetings between the authorities on borders of the two countries and through diplomatic channels was fully utilised in order to prevent these incidents from being blown up out of proportion.

The report welcomes moves towards demiliterization of the Indian Ocean and expressed a sincere hope that the talks between the United States and the Soviet Union would lead to early elimination of the great power rivalry in the region. It, however, expresses the view that the proposal to only limit arms development in the Indian Ocean falls far short of the requirements for peace in the region. It says: "It is our considered view that the region should be completely free of big power rivalry and that foreign military bases should be eliminated." Referring to "a degree of improvement" in India's relations with China, the report says that the basic differences on the border question remained unresolved. While there had been no appreciable change in the overall strength of the Chinese armed forces in Tibet, there had been notable improvement in their logistical capabilities during the year under review. The situation on the border remained peaceful.

The report says that there has been a perceptible improvement in the climate of our relations with Bangladesh. The agreement on sharing the Ganges waters is a very welcome development. It reiterates India's vital interest in a strong and prosperous Bangladesh and resolving of problems however complex through bilateral negotiations.

Detailing the development of planning for defence the report says that while the main thrust in the planning process was to ensure defence preparedness to meet threats prevailing from time to time, emphasis was also placed on the promotion of indigenous research and the development on mobilisation of indigenous capabilities and on stepping up production. This had resulted in a closer interaction between the defence plan and the national plan. The report says that it has been appreciated that the two sectors are not mutually exclusive--in fact one reinforces the other. A sound and healthy economy with a broad industrial base resulting from development considerably strengthens the defense capability. Likewise, gains from development have to be protected by defence against external aggression. In national scenario, therefore, their roles are complementary.

With the growth of diversification of India's economy the report hopes that it may be feasible to strive for a degree to interdependence in the civil and defence sectors. Considerations of economy and efficiency are likely to impel India in the direction of closer cooperation of capabilities and skills between the two sectors. The report records that a beginning has been made and a pattern of mutual beneficial relationship is emerging in the limited areas of intermediate projects, components and spare parts. Considerable commonalities in technologies in a number of sophisticated areas have been identified so that duplication is avoided. These include aerospace, advanced electronics, computers, lasers, communications and special alloys.

The defence public sector undertakings [PSU] have given an impetus to sophisticated technology in the country by establishing indigenous manufacture of aircraft, warships and merchant ships, cargo bulk carriers and harbour craft, marine diesel engines and other equipment and machinery for ships, heavy earth moving equipment and machine tools besides electronic communication equipment, radars and professional grade equipment. The defence PSU's have also generated industrial activity in the small scale sector by the promotion of ancillaries and subcontracting work to the civil sector. Their foreign exchange earnings have progressively increased from rupees 22.7 million in 1971-72 to rupees 294.7 million in 1976-77.

Ordnance factories are moving towards functioning as a semicommercial organisation with a high degree of flexibility to achieve economical operation besides meeting the defence requirements. Their spare capacity resulting from tapering off of the demands for lethal stores in peace time is utilised to produce the selected civil consumer items and entertaining orders from the railways, government departments, public sector undertakings and trade firms. Besides a number of projects for creation of facilities for the new lines of production, augmentation of existing lines and major replacement or modernisation of the existing facilities, the directorate general of ordnance factories is planning about 40 projects.

The directorate general of ordnance factories is currently creating capacities for the production of an improved version of the field gun, rocket and ballistics propellants, the production of gun barrels and ammunition for the medium gun, medium machine gun, automatic pistol, aviation ammunition, pyrotechnic stores, including modern and sophisticated illuminating ammunition, augmentation of propellant production capacity and augmentation of capacities for tank guns and ammunition.

The year was a landmark in the modernisation of the army. With substantial progress made during the year under review in the programme of replacement of outdated weapon systems which was started from the first defence plan 1964-69 the army is now equipped in the main with substantive quantities of modern armor armaments, ammunition and equipment produced indigenously to a large extent. There had been a steady improvement in the "teeth to tail" ratio and over last 3 years an improvement of 3.79 percent has been achieved. A number of welfare schemes were launched during the year which will benefit all ranks of the army.

The navy's strength was augmented by phasing out old ships and inducting new ones. INS Dunagiri, the fourth Leander class frigate,was commissioned and four other ships added. Two ships--INS Tir and INS Cauvery--were decommissioned. The government approved the acquisition of VSTOL aircraft to replace the Seahawks operating from INS Vikrant. Long range antisubmarine aircraft joined the navy in October 1977. The first stage of the naval dockyard expansion scheme at Bombay was completed, as also was some work of the second stage. At Vishakhapatnam the first phase of the naval project was under execution and the dry dock was expected to be ready by June 1978.

An improved version of a combat aircraft under production in India was inducted in the squadron service during the year. Work on the radar and communication system for air defense made further progress and a second high power static radar was expected to be ready for operation by June 1978. The semiautomatic data handling equipment integrated with these radar was being operationally evaluated.

PAKISTAN

HAQ CONFIRMS EFFORTS TO FORM GOVERNMENT

BK271728Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 27 Mar 78 BK

[Excerpts] The chief of the army staff and chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has emphasized that the best course to insure political stability in the country is to have less of agitational politics. Talking informally with newsmen in Lahore today he said politics should not be merely for the sake of politics but for solving the country's problems.

Asked about the progress on the proposal for formation of a national government, the chief martial law administrator said that the election cell had held meetings with leaders of political parties and their reaction to the proposal was encouraging. He said the concept of a national government was that political leaders should share some responsibility with the present government in the national interest. He pointed out that the national government could be meaningful only if all the parties agreed on it. He reiterated that, so far as he was concerned, he did not want to form his own party or fight the elections. The chief martial law administrator added that whether or not a national government was formed, elections would certainly be held and this would take neither weeks nor years. It was a matter of months.

Regarding the ban on restricted political activity, he said there was a wrong impression in this country that political activity meant only public meetings, processions and speeches. Anyhow, he said a decision about the extension of the ban or otherwise beyond the 31st of this month would be announced before its expiry.

The chief martial law administrator has returned to Rawalpindi.

AFP: TWO PARTIES SAID TO REJECT HAQ COALITION BID

BK271243Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1236 GMT 27 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Rawalpindi, March 27 (AFP)--Two of Pakistan's principal political parties have reportedly turned down a proposal by the country's military ruler, General Ziaul Haq, to form an all-party national government pending a general election.

The parties are the Tehrik-I-Istaq Lal,headed by Retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan, and the National Democratic Party of Khan Aboul Wali Khan, who was formerly president of the national Awami Party.

Reports said that Tehrik-I-Istaq Lal secretary-general, Musheer Pesh Imam, had written to the military authorities reiterating the view that only elections could give a party the right to form a government.

The National Democratic Party is a member of the eight-party Pakistan National Alliance which spearheaded the post-election agitation last year that led to the ousting of former Premier Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto from power.

The alliance has so far not made known its response to the proposal for a national government, but the National Democratic Party has reportedly said it would not join such a government.

Informed sources here said General Zia was likely to meet political leaders in the near future to steer forward his national government scheme.

SUPREME COURT TO TAKE UP BHUTTO APPEAL 1 APRIL

BK271736Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 27 Mar 78 BK

[Text] A full bench of the Supreme Court will take up in Rawalpindi on Saturday miscellaneous matters connected with the appeals filed by Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and four others against the Lahore High Court judgment in Mohammad Ahmed Khan's murder case. The Supreme Court has issued notices to the parties concerned.

The bench will comprise the chief justice of Pakistan, Mr Justice S. Anwarul Haq, Mr Justice Dohrab Patel, Mr Justice (Saidul Khan), Mr Justice Mohammad Hanif, and Mr Justice Safdar Shah.

AFP REPORTS DETENTION OF FORMER FINANCE MINISTER

BK241157Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1153 GMT 24 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad, March 24 (AFP)--Dr Mubashir Hasan, former secretary general of Pakistan People's Party and an ex-federal finance minister, was detained in Lahore last night, capital of the Punjab, about 280 kilometres (180 miles) southeast of here today [as received], reliable sources said.

He has been detained for a period of 3 months under a martial law regulation.

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